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CLEARING THE AIR

V.K. Pandian is not my successor: Patnaik

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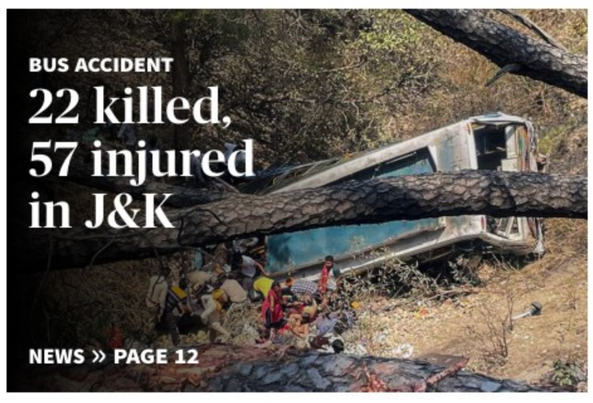

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Govt. yet to appoint guest teachers

BENGALURU
Though the new academic year has just commenced, the State government has not appointed guest teachers to fill vacancies in government primary and high schools. » Page 2

BJP ups ante for Minister's resignation

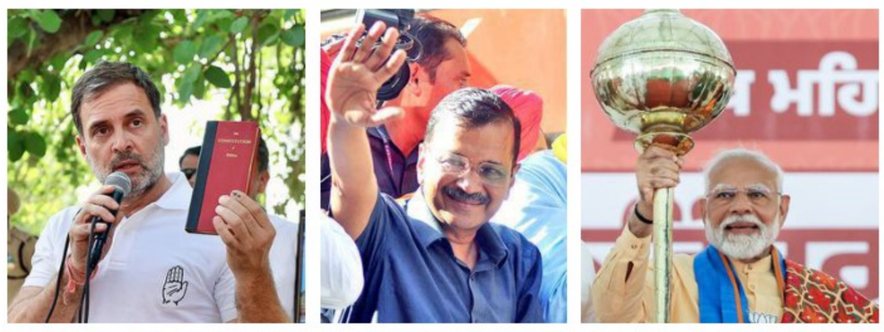
BENGALURU
As speculation over the continuation of Minister for Scheduled Tribes Welfare B. Nagendra in the Cabinet persisted, with the demand for his resignation raised by the BJP, his colleagues came to his defence on Thursday. » Page 9

METROPLUS » PAGE 5

Campaign season ends; last lap to decide 57 seats

The seventh and last phase of voting will be held in eight States and Union Territories; Varanasi, where the Prime Minister is seeking re-election for a third term, is among the constituencies

Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI



The final push: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi addresses a public meeting at Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar; Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal holds a roadshow in Patiala; Prime Minister Narendra Modi holds a mace at a public meeting in Hoshiarpur of Punjab on Thursday. ANI

Curtains came down on Thursday on the high-octane campaign for the Lok Sabha election, which saw political parties try and weave narratives, often acrimonious, over issues ranging from caste, religion, reservation and citizenship.

The seventh and last phase of voting will be held on Saturday for 57 seats in eight States and Union Territories, including in Varanasi, where Prime Minister Narendra Modi is seeking re-election for a third term. Among these seats, the BJP had won 25 in 2019.

The two constants in the nearly two-month campaign were the searing heat and low voter turnout as compared with the 2019 figure. Voting has been completed in 486 seats in 28 States and Union Territories.

The turnout in the first six phases was 66.14%, 66.71%, 65.68%, 69.16%, 62.2% and 63.36%, respectively.

Mr. Modi held 206 rallies, events and roadshows during the campaign period. He held his last rally in Hoshiarpur of Punjab on Thursday.

The Prime Minister headed to Kanniyakumari in Tamil Nadu to meditate on the Vivekananda Rock Memorial till June 1. Opposition parties have raised concerns with the Election Commission as Mr. Modi's meditation coincides with the silent period.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi addressed his last public programme at a village in Khatkar Kalan of Punjab, the birthplace of Bhagat Singh.

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I didn't single out any community for special treatment: Manmohan

The Hindu Bureau
CHANDIGARH

Accusing Prime Minister Narendra Modi of "lowering the dignity of the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) with hate speeches", his predecessor Dr. Manmohan Singh denied that he had ever singled out any community for special treatment.

"I have been keenly following the political discourse during this election campaign. Modi*ji* has indulged in the most vicious form of hate speeches, which are purely divisive in nature," Dr. Singh said in a three-page appeal to the voters of Punjab on Thursday ahead of the polls in the State on Saturday.

> Modi*ji* has indulged in the most vicious form of hate speeches, which are purely divisive in nature
>
> **MANMOHAN SINGH**
> Former Prime Minister

'False statements'

"Modi*ji* is the first Prime Minister to lower the dignity of public discourse, and thereby the gravity of the office of the Prime Minister. No Prime Minister in the past has uttered such hateful, unparliamentary and coarse terms, meant to target either a specific section of the society or the Opposition. He has also attributed some false statements to me. I have never in my life singled out one community from the other. That is the sole copyright of the BJP," the former PM added.

CONTINUED ON
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Hassan MP Prajwal lands in Bengaluru

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Hassan MP Prajwal Revanna, who is facing charges of sexually abusing several women, landed in Bengaluru from Germany around half past Thursday midnight, after being away from the country for over a month.

He will now face a probe by the Special Investigation Team (SIT) set up in connection with the alleged sexual abuse cases.

The 33-year-old grandson of the former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda flew down from Munich. He had left the country soon after polling in Hassan concluded on April 26 amid the circulation of video clips with explicit videos allegedly involving him.

The MP released a video on Monday, saying he would appear before SIT on May 31.

PROTEST IN HASSAN
» PAGE 6

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PENTAGON 12519

A BG-BGE

When left is right — speed merchants who will set your pulse racing

Starc and Boult are but two of a bunch of outstanding left-arm pacemen who will grace the T20 World Cup in the US and the Caribbean while a host of exciting right-arm quicks, not least Bumrah and the returning Archer, will try their level best to ensure that left isn't the flavour of the tournament

B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM, VIJAY SONEJI, EMMANUAL YOGINI

R. Kaushik

What excites you the most in a game of cricket? The brutal power with which the ball is struck? The sheer elegance in stroke-making that only a chosen few are blessed with? The timing that sends the ball scurrying to the fence even when a shot hasn't been hit in anger? The sight of a tearaway quick, attacking the bowling crease gracefully and letting thunderbolts fly? A spinner bamboozling and embarrassing the batsman with his guile and cunning? All of it, surely?

Bowling fast is obviously one of the more physically demanding challenges in the sport. The pounding the back and the knees and the ankles take when the run-up culminates in the release of the ball is immense, yet the human being is magnetically attracted to the pursuit of this often-torturous endeavour because, clearly, pace excites.

Sultan of Swing

When the pacer belongs to the left-arm variety, it adds a further layer of beauty. And particularly when the said bowler is able to swing the ball back into the right-hander. Remember Wasim Akram, the Sultan of Swing, conventional and reverse?

Connoisseurs of a certain vintage swear by Australian Alan Davidson, acknowledged as one of the finest left-arm quicks in the history of the game for taking 186 wickets in 44 Tests in the 1950s and '60s. For a later generation who had the privilege of watching him in action 'live' or on television, it is hard to believe that someone could be better than the rangy Pakistani, who could make the ball 'talk' like few others and signed off with a jaw-dropping 916 international wickets.

Explosive pace

Akram was equally at home bowling from over the stumps as round. He could ballet in from a long run-up, or steam in from a shorter one, building up explosive pace in a short span of time without sacrificing swing or speed. He was excellent with the new ball but lethal with the older one, especially as it aged on one side while the other was smooth and shiny, with designated 'ball maintainers' facilitating reverse swing.

Akram had a mean bouncer which he used sparingly, and a devastating yorker that tailed in late, threatened to break toes into million irrecoverable pieces and smashed into the woodwork with the certainty of night following day. Akram was poetry in motion, a fabulous admixture of sinewy grace and remarkable skills.

The benchmark

He will remain the benchmark for all aspiring left-arm quicks, of whom many populate the sport currently. In an IPL largely dominated by the bat, two left-armers stood out, Rajasthan Royal's Trent Boult from New Zealand and Australian Mitchell Starc, the Player of the Final last week when Kolkata Knight Riders annihilated Sunrisers Hyderabad.

Boult is no longer a 'full-time' international cricketer, but the quality he brings made it impossible for the Kiwi selectors to overlook his credentials for the T20 World Cup. Boult manages to extract swing that often eludes most others, coaxing movement in the air with his wonderful wrist. No one has taken more wickets in the first over of a T20 innings than the affable Kiwi, whose bowling at the death has perked up in recent times but who is at his deadliest bowling up front.

Rhythm bowler

Starc is taller, quicker, and brooks equally careful watching. The Aussie is a rhythm bowler who can sometimes get it awfully wrong, which is when he goes for plenty. But when he does get it right, which is more often than not, he can influence the outcome of a contest in no time. Starc came into IPL 2024 on the back of a ₹24.75-crore pay cheque, making him the most expensive buy in the tournament's history.

Whether he initially felt the pressure of that price tag isn't obvious, but Starc did start the tournament poorly, conceding 100 runs in his first two outings without picking up a wicket. But as the IPL progressed, he came into his own, sprinting in as if a man possessed and getting the ball to go this way and that.

The difference

Particularly in the final week of the tournament, he was the difference between the sides in both Qualifier 1 and the Final, both against SRH. Three wickets apiece in both games alone more than justified the money spent on him, even if that might appear a skewed way of looking at things.

Starc and Boult are but two of a bunch of outstanding left-arm pacemen who will grace the T20 World Cup in the US and the Caribbean. Almost every top team has at least one of this ilk; some, like Pakistan and England, have two standout left-arm seamers who will relish the opportunity to take slow surfaces out of the equation with their shenanigans through the air.

The Shaheen Afridi factor

Pakistan, the 2009 champion, has worthy successors to the Akram legacy in the form of Shaheen Shah Afridi and the resurrected Mohammad Amir, who has only recently returned to international action after having announced his retirement in 2020. Indian fans will recall with little joy how Afridi settled the T20 World Cup clash in Dubai in 2021 very early in the piece with the scalps of Rohit Sharma and K.L. Rahul with deliveries that swung in late.

A product of the vibrant junior system that is such an integral part of the development process in the subcontinent, Afridi first made a mark at the Under-19 World Cup in New Zealand in 2018. He was quickly fast-tracked to the senior set-up and didn't take long to establish himself as the leader of a pack that also included another wonderful left-arm exponent, Wahab Riaz.

Amir seemed to have the world at his feet when he burst through in 2009, until the spectre of spot-fixing reared its ugly head and he appeared lost to the sport. His youth and genuine remorse catalysed a lighter sentence and while he wasn't the same bowler on his comeback after a five-year ban in 2016, he seems to have found a second wind and could still have a say at the World Cup.

Numerous variations

England boasts the strapping Reece Topley and the wily Sam Curran, both Player of the Match in the last T20 World Cup final against Pakistan and the Player of the Tournament. Both are different kinds of bowlers, not unlike Afridi and Amir with the roles perhaps somewhat reversed. Their USP is the numerous variations once the ball gets a little older and a little softer, which is also when the admirable Mutafizur Rahman of Bangladesh is at his most effective.

The Fizz, as he is popularly called, appeared to have fizzled out until a stint in IPL 2024 with Chennai Super Kings has brought him back to the forefront. Feeling appreciated and finally getting the sense that he belonged, Mustafizur was a huge factor in the first half of the competition when CSK had a string of good results.

It was no coincidence that their fortunes took a nosedive once the Bangladeshi returned home to link up with the national squad. Mustafizur is the veritable master of cutters and should have a field day on the slower pitches that are expected to be the norm at the World Cup.

India has had numerous felicitous left-armers in the past, none more celebrated than Zaheer Khan. There was a time when left was right for the 2007 T20 World Cup champions; the careers of Zaheer and Ashish Nehra overlapped with Irfan Pathan and R.P. Singh. It's incumbent upon Arshdeep Singh to keep that particular flag flying.

Pinpoint precision

Arshdeep and Mohammed Siraj will perhaps battle it out for the right to partner the peerless Jasprit Bumrah, with little separating the two claimants. Arshdeep is one of the few bowlers in the world who can nail his yorkers at the death with pinpoint precision, though he can also make the new ball go a long way and therefore will believe that the change in angle he presents will win him the nod.

A host of exciting right-arm quicks, not least Bumrah and the returning Jofra Archer, will try their level best to ensure that left isn't the flavour of the tournament, and who's to say, given their ability, that they won't be successful in that mission. But discount the left-arm pace merchants at your own peril.

Magic through the air

The popular perception is that on the tracks that are expected to be on offer, it is the spinners that will hold sway. But several of the aforementioned left-arm quicker bowlers are masters at using the playing surface, whatever be its nature, to their advantage or taking it out of the picture entirely with their magic through the air.

For bowlers like Starc and Boult, both 34 years old, this could well be their T20 World Cup swansong. How wonderful it would be to leave a lasting impression. Australia's only T20 World Cup success came in the desert of the UAE in 2021 while New Zealand has yet to win a limited-overs World Cup, though it did clinch the 50-over Champions Trophy in 2000 and inaugural World Test Championship final in 2021. That should be incentive enough for Starc and Boult respectively. Strap in for what promises to be an exciting, fun-filled roller-coaster ride.

THE GIST

- Connoisseurs of a certain vintage swear by Australian Alan Davidson, acknowledged as one of the finest left-arm quicks in the history of the game for taking 186 wickets in 44 Tests in the 1950s and '60s
- Wasim Akram, the rangy Pakistani, could make the ball 'talk' like few others and signed off with a jaw-dropping 916 international wickets
- In an IPL largely dominated by the bat, two left-armers stood out, Rajasthan Royal's Trent Boult from New Zealand and Australian Mitchell Starc, the Player of the Final last week
- Pakistan, the 2009 champion, has worthy successors to the Akram legacy in the form of Shaheen Afridi and the resurrected Mohammad Amir
- For India, Arshdeep Singh and Mohammed Siraj will perhaps battle it out for the right to partner the peerless Jasprit Bumrah, with little separating the two claimants

Govt. yet to appoint guest teachers

DSEL says recruitment of guest teachers has been hampered owing to the code of conduct for the parliamentary elections

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

Though the new academic year has just commenced, the State government has not appointed guest teachers to fill vacancies in government primary and high schools.

There are 47,272 government schools in the State with 1,79,784 teachers.

Sources say around 50,000 teachers' posts in primary schools and 10,000 in high schools are vacant, and guest teachers are recruited for these vacancies. In 2023-24, the DSEL appointed about 33,000 guest teachers by May, who began work at the beginning of the academic year. However, guest teachers have not been appointed this year.

A class in progress in a school at Laggere, Bengaluru, on Wednesday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Thousands of schools have just one teacher, and many schools with 50 to 60 students have only two or three teachers. So, guest teachers are the mainstay in such schools.

5100 teachers needed

Officials said the department has submitted a proposal for the appointment of 51,000 guest teachers, and it's pending approval from the Finance Department.

DSEL sources said guest teachers haven't been appointed because of the poll-related model code of conduct. "Once the election process is over, the department will recruit guest teachers," said an official.

"Even after the poll process is over, it will take about one or two months to issue an order, invite applications, and fill the posts. Until then, permanent teachers will be deputed to schools where there is a shortage," said the headmaster of a government high school in Bengaluru.

The Karnataka State Primary School Teachers Association requested the Chief Minister consider the early appointment of guest teachers. Chandrashekara Nuggali, the association's general secretary, said around 60,000 teacher posts are vacant in government schools, and it is tough to run them without full-fledged teaching staff.

Teachers in BBMP-run schools, colleges to be appointed by SDMC, CDC

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The BBMP has cancelled the tendering system for outsourcing teaching staff for schools and colleges run by the civic body. The appointments will instead be done by the School Development and Monitoring Committee (SDMC) and College Development Committee (CDC).

Earlier, the BBMP, through a tender process, awarded contracts to agencies, which in turn supplied teaching staff to primary, higher primary, high school, pre-university, and degree colleges.

BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath, talking to The Hindu, said the new order was passed to improve the quality of teaching because SDMC and CDC members will know what kind of teachers are required.

Mr. Giri Nath further said this would also bring transparency to the process of appointment. The BBMP wanted to keep agencies away, and this is also one of the reasons why the fresh order was passed.

Belagavi-based VTU sets record by announcing final year degree results on day exam ended

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Belagavi-based Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU) has set a new record by announcing results of final year degree on the day the examination ended on Thursday.

This is the first time in the 25-year history of the university that the results of 42,323 students of final year BE/B.Tech/B.Arch/B.Plan were declared on Thursday, the day their examination ended.

The last paper ended at 5.30 p.m. The results of students were sent to their mobile phones in three hours at around 8.30 p.m.

Vice-Chancellor S. Vidyashankar has in a press release said that those who have cleared all their earlier examination and completed their degree course can obtain copies of provisional degree certificates by applying online to the university starting Monday. "Early declaration of results will greatly facilitate students for employment in various fields and higher education. We are committed to attuning governance at VTU towards the interest of students. This feat has been achieved by bringing revolutionary reforms in the academic, examination and research department," he said.

Varsity files complaint after imposters collect 'fees'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Registrar of St. Joseph's University has filed a complaint with the Ashoknagar police against unidentified persons, posing as university board members were cheating students on the pretext of helping them with placement and internship. Based on the complaint by Melwin Oliver Colaso, the police registered a case of cheating under the IT Act against the unknown persons on Wednesday for further investigation.

The accused had made a WhatsApp group and charged ₹1,000 towards fee from each student.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This notice is issued on behalf of my client **Smt.Uma.K.R** to bring to the notice of the general public that the Original Sale deed dt.30.05.2011, Doc. No.1433/2011-12 of Book I, CD No.BGRD87, in the office of the Sub-Registrar Begur, Bangalore in respect of property bearing No.7, Khatha No.233/1, Assessment No.24/6, Situated **at Doddanagamangala Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore** measuring East to West 30 ft and North to South 40 ft, total measuring **1200 Sq.ft.**, along with building has been lost at the time of travelling.

All the persons are hereby informed not to deal or carry out any transaction with anyone on the basis of the said Sale deed. If anyone has already carried out or being carried out kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within **7 days** from this present along with that Police Complaint is also given vide **Lost Report No.1076728/2024, dated 30.05.2024.**

Y. Sowmya Yadav, Advocate
Samvruddhi Legal, # 83, Ground Floor, 5th 'A' Cross, 21st Main, J.P. Nagar 2nd Phase, Bangalore-78. **M : 9916343921**

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that my clients have agreed to purchase the Schedule property from 1.SMT.RAMYASHREE W/o Ranjan and D/o Siddaraju, aged about 30 year, 2.SRI.CHIKKARANGAIAH S/o Siddaraju, aged about 28 year, 3.SMT.JYOTHI W/o Siddaraju, aged about 36 year, 4.KUMARI. BHARATHI D/o Siddaraju, aged about 17 years 5.SMT. RADAMMA W/o late Arasaiah, aged about 56 years, All are R/at Yentaganahalli Village, Kasabha Hobli, Nelamanagala Taluk, Bangalore Rural District-562123, If anybody has got any right or legitimate claim over the same, they can put forward their claim within 10 days from the date of publication of this Notice along with relevant documents to the under signed. Claims that are received after ten days from the date of publication of this notice will not be taken into consideration.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of land bearing Survey No.35/3 measuring 30 gunta situated at Yentaganahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Nelamanagala Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, having the following boundaries: East by : Property belongs to Hanumakka, West by : Property belongs to Bachaiah and his sons, North by : Property belongs to Dayananda and Gowramma, South by : Property belongs to Kemmparangaiah Property.

DIVAKARA, BAL, LLB, ADVOCATE
#70, 6th Main Road, 15th Cross, J.C. Nagar Bangalore-560086. PH.9845309404
Mail : divakar.yashu@gmail.com
BANGALORE DATED : 30-05-2024

IN THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-1, AT BANGALORE
O.A. No. 896 of 2023

M/s. CANARA BANK
BOMMASANDRA MAIN BR., HOSUR MAIN Rd., B'LORE-99.
Rep. by its Senior Manager V/s. ....APPLICANT
Sri. CHANDRASHEKAR J.S. & ANOTHER ....DEFENDANTS

SUMMONS TO THE DEFT. Nos. 1 & 2 ISSUED UNDER RULE 23 (VIII) OF DRT (PROCEDURE) RULES 1993

DEFT. No.1: **Sri. CHANDRASHEKAR J.S.** Major, S/o. Sri Shankrachar, **Prop. M/s. S. K. ENTERPRISES @** # 132/2, Vinayaka Circle, Jigani, Anekal Tq, B'lore-560 105.

DEFT. No.2: **Sri. G. PARASHIVA MURTHY @ PRASHIVA MURTHY** Aged about 72 Years, S/o. Sri Siddhappa @ # 42, 9th Cross, K P Agrahara, Bangalore North, Bangalore-560 023.

WHEREAS the above named Applicant has instituted an application U/S 19 of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks & Financial Institutions Act, 1993, against the defendants for recovery of a sum of **Rs. 35,75,938/=** alongwith court costs, together with current & future interest and other reliefs from the date of application till date of recovery. You are hereby required **to show cause within 30 days of the service of the summons or on 2nd day of August 2024 at 10:30 a.m.** either in person or duly instructed pleader as to why the relief prayed for should not be granted.

Take Notice that, in case of default the application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this the 4th day of April 2024 at Bangalore.

BY THE ORDER OF THE TRIBUNAL
Sd/- (REGISTRAR)
Debts Recovery Tribunal-1 for Karnataka
BSNL Building, 4th Floor, Telephone House, Raj Bhavan Road, Bangalore-560 001.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that my clients have agreed to purchase the Schedule property from 1.SMT.HANUMAKKA W/o late Garudarangaiah, aged about 75 years, 2.SMT.KEMPAMMA D/o late Garudarangaiah, Aged about 51 years 3.SRI.NANJEGOWDA. G S/o late Garudarangaiah, aged about 45 years 4.SMT.MANJULA W/o Nanjegowda. G, aged about 43 years, 5. KUMARI.RAKSHITHA. N D/o Nanjegowda. G, aged about 19 years, 6. MASTER. SHREYAS GOWDA.N S/o Nanjegowda. G, aged about 17 years, all are R/at Yentaganahalli Village, Kasabha Hobli, Nelamanagala Taluk, Bangalore Rural District-562123, If anybody has got any right or legitimate claim over the same, they can put forward their claim within 10 days from the date of publication of this Notice along with relevant documents to the under signed. Claims that are received after ten days from the date of publication of this notice will not be taken into consideration.

SCHEDULE

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DIVAKARA, BAL, LLB, ADVOCATE
70, 6th Main Road, 15th Cross, J.C. Nagar Bangalore-560086. PH.9845309404
Mail : divakar.yashu@gmail.com
BANGALORE DATED : 30-05-2024

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PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME

I, AMEER Unnisa, R/o No 29, Old Bamboo Bazaar, Shivajinagar, Bangalore-560051 have changed my name to Ameerunissa V.O. vide affidavit dt: 30.05.2024 sworn before Notary L.Gopalakrishna, B'lore

PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME

I, AMIT Kumar Mishra, resident of p–89/24, av camp, marathalli Bengaluru–560037 have changed my daughter's name from Harshi Mishra to Ojashvi Mishra vide affidavit dated 27–05–2024 before Notery Deea.M., Bengaluru.

PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME

I, ROHIT Mohan F/O Hiya Mohan born on 13/04/2011 residing at Flat 5D, Samruddh Bright Homes Apartment, Brookefield Kundalahalli, Have changed my minor daughter's name to Diriti R Mohan vide affidavit dated 28/5/24 at Bengaluru.

I, GEETHA Ramachandran wife of Ramachandran.N residing at No.3, Indeevaram Near Diamond PU College Halehalli, Maragondanahalli, Kithaganor Main Road, SLV Layout, Bangalore - 560036 have changed my name from Geetha Devi.I to Geetha Ramachandran vide affidavit dated 30-05-2024 before Notary Sumithra.N, Bengaluru-560050

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GENERAL

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AIR 3, IAS 2023

Abhinav Jain
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LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-1, B.S.N.L. BUILDING, 4TH FLOOR, TELEPHONE HOUSE, RAJBHAVAN ROAD, BENGALURU-560 001

O.A. NO. 703/2023
BETWEEN :
ICICI BANK LIMITED, ...Applicant
AND :
SRI.RAMESH H. ...Defendant

To,
SRI RAMESH H.
S/O. SR HANUMANTARAYA,
AGED ABOUT 36 YEARS,
NO. 25/11, HATTI
LINGSUGURTALUKU,
MEDINAPUR, HUTTI,
RAICHUR- 584 115
ALSO AT :
SRI.RAMESH H.
NO. 1687, GROUND FLOOR,
4TH MAIN, HMT LAYOUT,
NAGASANDRA POST,
BENGLAURU- 560 073
AND ALSO AT :
SRI RAMESH H.
11TH FLOOR, MFAR
MANYATA TECH PARK,
GRENHEART, PHASE IV,
EMBASSY MANYATA
BUSINESS PARK,
NAGAVARA, BENGALURU-560 045

SUMMONS ISSUED TO DEFENDANT UNDER RULE 23(Viii) OF DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES OF 1993 BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION

WHEREAS: the applicant has instituted an application under section 19 of Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions, Act, 1993, against the above defendants for the recovery of sum of **Rs.27,54,820/- (Rupees Twenty Seven Lakhs Fifty Four Thousand Eight Hundred and Twenty Rupees only**)amount together with current and future interest, cost and other reliefs.

The above mentioned defendants are required to appear therefore hereby directed to appear before the Tribunal in person or through an Advocate or duly instructed in support of their defence to show cause on 31/07/2024 at 10:30 A.M. as why the relief's prayed for should not be granted. Take notice that in case default the application will be heard and determined in your absence. Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal on this day 02/05/2024

BY THE ORDER OF THE TRIBUNAL REGISTRAR-1
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-1
BANGALORE

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BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer (QA/QC) Division, Bommanahalli Zone,
Room No.101, Annex-3 Building, BBMP, N.R. Square, Bengaluru - 560002.

No: EE(QA/QC)/Bommanahalli/TEND/06/2024-25 Date: 30-05-2024

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

The Executive Engineer, Quality Assurance / Quality Control Division (Bommanahalli Zone), BBMP, Bengaluru invites Request for Proposal from interested Persons / Firms those who have done similar type of work for Consultancy Services for Project Management including Supervision, Quality Control (PMC) for the works detailed below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Providing PMC Services including Supervision, Quality Control for the Reconstruction of Concrete Road and RCC Drain at Marthas Hospital Road, Uttarahalli, Reconstruction of Concrete Road and RCC Drain at Church Road, Uttarahalli in Ward No.202, Uttarahalli, Construction of RCC Drain at Venkatgiri Garden Main Road and Cross Roads, Balance portion of Sahara Layout Main Road and Subramanyapura Main Road from 80 ft Road to Anjaneyaswamy Temple and Construction of Concrete Road at Venkatgiri Garden and Sahara Layout Cross Road and Asphalting of Roads at Venkatgiri Garden Cross Road and Subramanyapura Main Road from 80 ft Road to Anjaneyaswamy Temple, Construction of RCC Drain and Culvert at Anjaneyaswamy Temple Road from Temple to Elegant Altima Apartment, Nandi Home Apartment Road, 7th Main BSK 5th Stage and GT Layout Main Road and Cross Road and Asphalting of Roads at Anjaneyaswamy Temple Road, Nandi Home Apartment Road and 7th Main BSK 5th Stage, Construction of RCC Drain and Culvert at Thurahalli Kabbalamma Temple Road from 1st Cross Kaithan Layout to Temple and Raja Garden Main Construction Concrete Road at Thurahalli Village Cross Roads and Kariynapalya Cross Road, Construction of Concrete Road, RCC Drain and Culvert at Doddakalsandra Village Cross Road and Culvert at Doddakalsandra Village Cross Road and Uma Maheshwari Temple behind Road in Ward No.203 Subramanyapura, Construction of Concrete Road at Naidu Layout 8th 'A' Cross and 'B' Cross & 9th Cross, Yadhalamnagar Cross Road, Construction of Concrete Road at Vasanthapura Gutte Roads, Reasphalting of Roads at Sridhar Ashrama Main Road and V.V. Nagar Cross Roads in Ward No.204 Vasanthapura. (GO SL No: 01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 06, 07, 08 & 09). **EMD Amount (in Rs.): 32,500/-**
2	Providing PMC Services including Supervision, Quality Control for the Improvements to Roads and Drains at JSS School & Govt. School and Ganapathi Pura 6th to 12th Cross roads. Construction of Culverts, CC Drains to 1st and 2nd Main Roads at PNB Layout, Construction of CC Drains to 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Cross Roads at PNB Layout in Ward No. 206 Konanakunte, Improvements to Roads and Drains in Kothnur Kateramma Layout and Surrounding Areas, Improvements to Roads and Drains in Kothnur and Surrounding Areas, Construction of All round Compound, CC Road Errection of 1 No of Borewell and Improvements at Gottigere Dhobhighat, Improvements to Roads and Drains in Jambu Savari Dinne South Side and Surrounding Areas, Improvements to Roads and Drains in Jambu Savari Dinne North Side and Surrounding Areas, Improvements of Roads and Drains in Gottigere Village and Weavers Colony Surrounding Areas, Improvements of Roads and Drains in Axar Circle and Surrounding Areas, Improvements of Roads and Drains in BTS Layout, Weavers Colony and Surrounding Areas in Gottigere Ward No. 209. (GO Sl No: 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 & 20). **EMD Amount (in Rs.): 33,750/-**
3	Providing PMC Services including Supervision, Quality Control for the Improvements of Roads and Construction of RCC Drain at Basaveshwara Temple Road, Koramara Beedi, Muniswamy Layout Roads and Oni Road in Basavanapura Village, Improvements of Roads and Construction of RCC Drain at Church Road in Chikka Kammanahalli Village and Hanumantha Nagara Cross Roads, BK Residency Main Road and Cross Roads in Doddakammanahalli Village, Improvements to RCC Drain at MLA Layout Main Road and Cross Roads, Improvements to Road and Construction of Balance Portion of RCC Drain at Ellenahalli Main Roads, Improvements to RCC Drain and Re-Asphalting to Begur Hulimavu Connecting Road (Hobebandi Road) and Cross Roads, Balance Portion of and 12th 'A' Cross Roads of Classic Layout in Ward No. 210 Kalena Agrahara. (GO Sl No: 21, 22, 23, 24 & 25). **EMD Amount (in Rs.): 26,250/-**
4	Providing PMC Services including Supervision, Quality Control for the Improvements of Roads and Construction of RCC Drain at Manjunath Nagara Main Road and Cross Roads, Kshatriya Nagara Road, Aralikatte Road in Chikkathoguru Village, Constructin of Balance RCC Drain at Subhash Nagara Main Road and CC Roads at 1st, 6th, 7th, 8th and 10th Cross Roads, Asphalting to Burrial Ground Road of Subhash Nagara 'A' Block, Improvements Roads and Construction of RCC Drain at 4th Cross Raghavendra Layout, 1st Cross and Lakshmi Layout Link Road at New Mico Layout, 3rd 'B' Main and Cross Roads Mico Layout and Muneshwara Layout Cross Roads Ward No. 211 Begur. (GO Sl No: 26, 27 & 29). **EMD Amount (in Rs.): 31,250/-**
5	Providing PMC Services including Supervision, Quality Control for the Construction of Balance RCC Drain at Basapura Village Main Roads and Asphalting to Cross Roads of Shusruthi Layout in Ward No. 211 Begur, Improvements of Roads and Drains at 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th Cross Roads Chowdeshwari Layout, 1st Main Road and 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th Cross Roads of Indramma Layout in Beretena Agrahara Village, Construction of CC Roads at Anjaneya Temple Road, Burrial Ground Road Ambedkar Colony and RCC Drain at Govt. School Road Parappana Agrahara Village, Improvements of Roads and Drains at 1st Main and Cross Roads of Bhuvaneshwari Layout, Narayanappa Layout Main Road, Balance Portion of Shivareddy Layout Main Road in Naganathapura Village in Ward No. 212 Naganathapura. (GO Sl No: 28, 30, 31 & 32). **EMD Amount (in Rs.): 25,000/-**

Calendar of Events: **1)** Tender Document may be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 05-06-2024. 2)** Pre Bid Meeting will be held on **10-06-2024 at 4.00 PM in the Office of the Executive Engineer (QA/QC), Room No. 101, Annex-3 Building, BBMP, N.R. Square, Bengaluru - 560002. 3)** Last Date and Time for Receipt of Tenders: **15-06-2024 upto 4.00 PM. 4)** Date of Opening of Technical Bid: **18-06-2024 at 11.30 AM.** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (QA/QC) Division, Bommanahalli Zone, BBMP.

RAILWAY ELECTRIFICATION, BENGALURU

Tender Notice No.: ELRESBC-Gr.296-TL-PLC-SBGA Date : 28.05.2024

TENDER NOTICE

The undersigned on behalf of The President of India invite e-tenders for the following works.

SL No	Item of work	Approximate value
1	(I) Design, Supply, Construction, Testing and Commissioning of Single circuit 66kV, 2-phase transmission line from 66/11kV KPTCL substation at Shravanabelagola to 66kV/27KV Railway Traction Substation at Shravanabelagola in Channarayapatna taluk, Hassan for an approximate Route length of 1.29 kms with Dismantling of existing SC tower in Yachenahally to Shravanabelagola 66kV line along with 1 No of 66kV terminal bay at Shravanabelagola KPTCL Substation. (II) Shifting/Modification of existing 66kV Hootagally-Mysuru south line crossing railway track between location No. 45 to 49 at N H Palya limits Ashokapuram, Mysuru along with Dismantling of existing 66kV DC Hootagalli Mysuru south line towers in Mysuru District.	Rs. 4,87,66,826.88

Last date of submission of bid for tender is 20.06.2024 at 15.00 Hours

For full details of tender Notice and Tender Documents, tenderer may logon to the web site : **www.ireps.gov.in. Keep visiting the website for any corrigendum till closing date.**

Tuljappa M Ladwa
Dy. CEE/P&P/RE/SBC

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PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that my clients have agreed to purchase the Schedule property from its Owners, namely, **(1) Sri.DHARMICHAND SURANA** S/o Late Sri.Sohanlal Surana; **(2) Sri.VIKAS SURANA** S/o Sri.Dharmichand Surana; **(3) Smt.KANTHA SURANA** W/o Sri.Prakashchand Surana; **(4) Sri.PRAKASHCHAND SURANA** S/o late Sohanlal Surana; and **(5) Sri.SHARAD SURANA** S/o late Sohanlal Surana, all are Partners of **M/s.M.S.INVESTMENTS,** a Partnership Firm, having its office at No.788, 76th A Cross, 4th Block, Rajaji Nagar, Bengaluru–560010.

Apart from the said Owners, if any other person/s have any manner of right, title and or interest or claim or charge or lien over the Schedule properties or otherwise have any lawful objection/s for sale of the Schedule Properties by the aforesaid Owners, they are hereby called upon to file their objection/s in writing, along with the photocopies of documents on which they rely, with the undersigned, within 14 days from the date of publication of this notice. Objection/s received thereafter will not be binding on my clients.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the Commercial property bearing Municipal No.27, PID No.30-2-27, measuring East to West (17+18)/2 ft and North to South (67+63)/2 ft, in all measuring 1134 Sq.ft., with a building thereon, situated at Old Tharagupet, Bangalore and bounded on:

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West by : Property No.28
North by : Old Tharagupet Main Road
South by : Pathnoolpet Masjid

Sd/- **S.F. GOUTAM CHAND**
Advocate
GOUTAM ASSOCIATES
No.60, 2nd Floor, Kanakapura Road,
Basavanagudi, Bangalore-560 004.

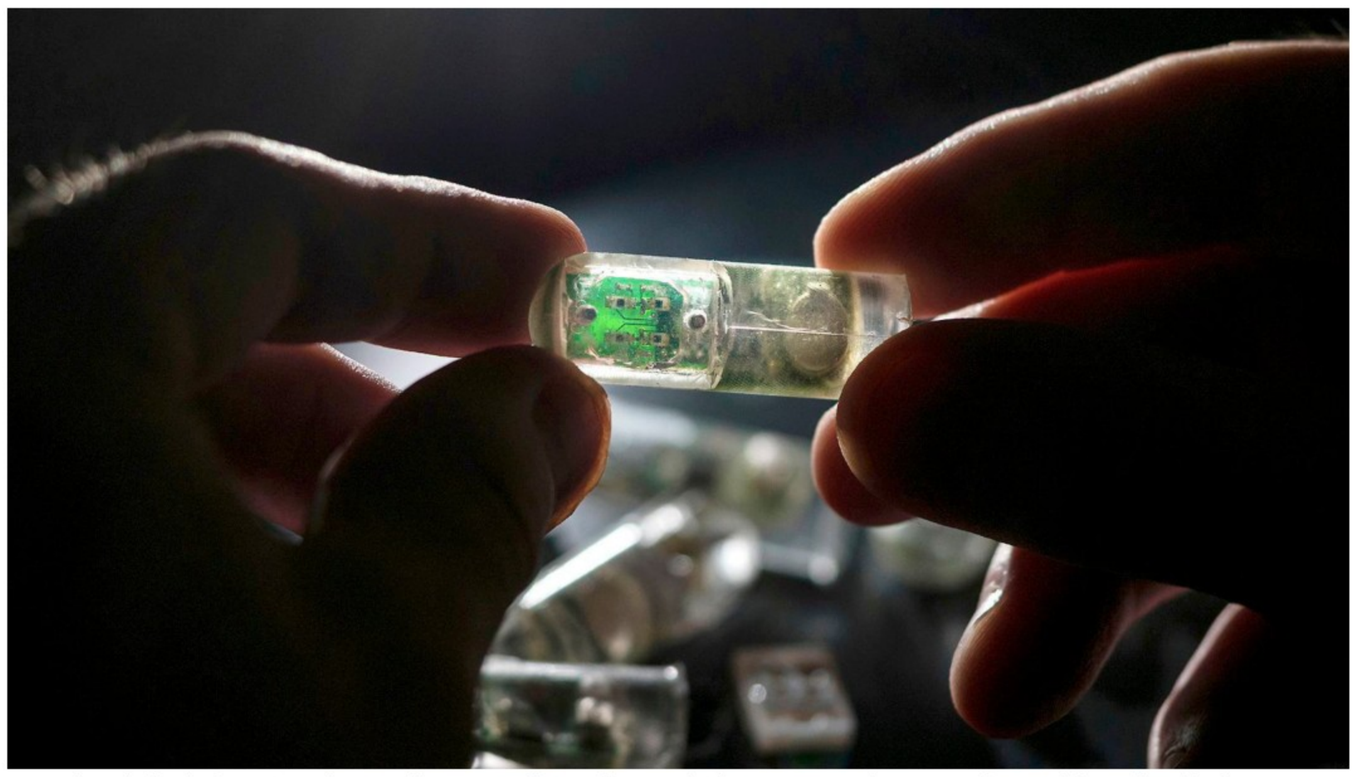
The rising incidence of paediatric inflammatory bowel disease in India

IBD is a chronic autoimmune condition where the white blood cells mistakenly identify cells in the human gut as their enemy and decide to attack it, causing ulcers in the mucosa. As a result a child with IBD may develop fever, loose stools and bloody diarrhoea. These children may lose weight, muscle mass, and may have vitamin deficiencies

Srinivas S.

When 10-year-old Durga recently came with her parents from their village in Andhra for a consultation, the family was worried that she was not thriving as well as her classmates and friends of the same age. She was pale, and had recurrent fever over the previous few months. She had also developed recurrent bouts of loose stools, sometimes bloody. Durga had lost a lot of weight and no longer resembled the child from a photograph taken during Deepawali. She underwent a number of tests which revealed that she was anaemic and had raised inflammatory markers. An ultrasonogram of the abdomen showed thickened bowel walls with increased vascularity (blood flow). She underwent a diagnostic upper gastro intensional endoscopy and colonoscopy, which revealed multiple ulcers in her intestines. Biopsies from various segments of her bowel helped confirm the diagnosis Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD).

IBD is a chronic autoimmune condition where the white blood cells or the body's soldiers mistakenly identify cells in the human gut as their enemy and decide to attack it, causing ulcers in the mucosa. As a result children may develop fever, abdominal pain, loose stools and at times bloody diarrhoea. These children may not absorb macro and micronutrients and hence lose weight, muscle mass, become anaemic and may have vitamin deficiencies.I explained to the parents that there were two types of IBD – *Ulcerative colitis* which affects only the large bowel and *Crohn's disease* which can affect any part of the gut from mouth to anus. Sometimes when we find it difficult to distinguish between these two conditions, we label it *Indeterminate Colitis* for a while until it evolves into one of the above conditions.



A capsule packed with electronics and genetically engineered living cells at Cambridge, Mass. Researchers at MIT, who tested the swallowable device in pigs, say it correctly detected signs of bleeding. The results suggest a smaller version of the capsule could eventually be used in humans to find signs of ulcers, inflammatory bowel disease or even colorectal cancer. AP

'Why did this happen to my child?'

This calls for a longer answer. Almost 20 years ago when I trained in paediatric gastroenterology at Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute, Lucknow; this condition was considered very rare in Indian children. Our adult gastroenterology colleagues saw IBD patients more frequently than we did (paediatric gastroenterologists). It was only when I trained at the Royal Childrens Hospital, Melbourne a few years later that I found that IBD in Australia was very common in children too. Then, I did wonder about what would be the value of learning so much about a condition that is very common in the Western world but so rare in India. Next, I started to hear reports of IBD rising in incidence in children of Indian origin parents who migrated to the West. Gradually it became clear that IBD can affect children of all ethnicities and socioeconomic status. 15 years later, I am now reating more than a hundred children with this condition from all over India.

But that was just a backgrounder. There is no easy answer to the question 'Why does IBD affect my child?' Medical research is still ongoing to pinpoint the exact cause. What is known is that children who are susceptible to IBD often have a weak or dysregulated immune system which responds inappropriately to environmental triggers such as a virus or bacteria. There may also be genetic factors which predispose these children to IBD as sometimes it seems to affect members of the same family. The human gastrointestinal tract harbours millions of microorganisms; often referred to as gut microbiota and this plays an important role in IBD. The gut microbiota of each individual is unique and influences health and disease. The nature and composition of gut microbiota can be altered by frequent antibiotics. Similarly, westernisation of food habits and lifestyle is also strongly linked to changes in the gut microbiota and a predisposition to develop IBD.

How can we treat and cure her?

IBD - Crohn's disease can be treated with very effective medications that control the inflammation and suppress the dysregulated and overactive immune system. These medications include steroids and a new class of drugs called biologics. But it is also possible to control the inflammation in the gut and heal ulcers in some children with the milder variety of Crohn' disease; without drugs using 'exclusive enteral nutrition'. Once the inflammation or acute flare up of the disease is under control, we aim to keep

> Westernisation of food habits and lifestyle is also strongly linked to changes in the gut microbiota and a predisposition to develop IBD

the disease under control (remission) for several years using milder immunosuppressant drugs and a special Crohn's disease exclusion diet (CDED).

IBD - Ulcerative colitis is also treated similarly, though another group of drugs called 'aminosalicylates' are used to treat milder forms of Ulcerative colitis. Exclusive Enteral Nutrition has not been found to be useful in treating Ulcerative Colitis.

Both forms of IBD are often chronic and need several years of medical therapy. A small minority of children who have remained in very good control (remission) for several years continue to do well even after stopping medications. The larger majority of children seem to need medications to keep the disease in remission. Further a small proportion of children who have uncontrolled inflammation develop complications needing surgery. But the good part is that science is rapidly evolving and new medications are being developed to treat IBD. Besides the world is much better connected today than before making it easy for developments in research in one part of the world to reach another.

Durga listened to all of this in rapt attention and asked me if she had Ulcerative colitis or Crohn's disease. I replied – Crohn's disease. She then asked me if it was mild or severe; to which I replied that she had a severe flare-up. She understood that simple diet therapy would not work and the family agreed to medication. With every week, she grew stronger and gained weight and achieved remission. She went on to receive milder drugs and continued to remain well for 2 months before yet another flare-up. She was disappointed; but ready for the challenge. She was then commenced on 'biologics' and remained in very good remission for the next 2 years; after which they were stopped. She has now remained in very good remission for the last 3 years without any flares and wants to study to become a doctor.

Durga is one of several success stories treated at our outpatient IBD clinic, but many struggle due to financial constraints and the very high cost of 'biologics'. There are also those who suffered because of the lack of timely & proper diagnosis of IBD. This is possibly because IBD has protean clinical manifestations ranging from a simple anaemia and failure to gain weight to fever, abdominal pain and loose stools. Patients and doctors often struggle to diagnose IBD and it is often mistaken for tuberculosis.

There is hence a need for increased awareness of this condition, both among the general public and medical community.

(The writer is a senior paediatric gastroenterologist with a special interest in IBD at Kanchi Kamakoti CHILDS Trust Hospital, Chennai. The hospital recently hosted a national paediatric IBD conference to observe celebrate World IBD week – May 19 to May 26.)

THE GIST

Susceptible children often have a weak or dysregulated immune system which responds inappropriately to environmental triggers such as a virus or bacteria. There may also be genetic factors which predispose these children to IBD as it sometimes affects members of the same family

IBD is often chronic and needs several years of therapy. A small minority of children who have remained in very good control for several years continue to do well even after stopping medications. The larger majority of children seem to need medications. A small proportion of children need surgery

Many patients struggle with the very high cost of 'biologics'. There are also those who did not receive timely and proper diagnosis, possibly because IBD has protean clinical manifestations. Patients and doctors often struggle to diagnose IBD and it is often mistaken for tuberculosis

World Menstrual Hygiene Day: starting conversations about periods

Serena Josephine M.

Starting conversations about menstruation helps children in more than one way. Delivering a message that leaves no room for doubt, provides them with appropriate information, and reassures them that menstruation is a natural, physiological process helps girls stay prepared but also does away with the fear and misconceptions associated with menstruation.

Menstruation has traditionally been talked about in hushed tones. This Menstrual Hygiene Day (May 28), #PeriodFriendlyWorld kicked off conversations on social media on menstrual hygiene, doing away with taboos and stigma surrounding menstruation and access to menstrual products.

Normalising conversations

Normalising conversations around menstruation and educating children should be the way ahead. Jaishree Gajaraj, senior consultant, Obstetrician, and Gynaecologist, MANGAI Women's Health Exclusive, said that many schools are already holding sessions for children. "We are seeing girls coming of age very early, and due to awareness, we do not see them surprised anymore. Mothers should sit with their children and explain the whole process. They should tell them that it is not necessary that they get periods every month, and it is not necessary that it should stop in three days and could even be longer," she said.

Sumana Manohar, senior consultant, Obstetrician and Gynaecologist, Apollo Women's Hospital, pointed out that educating children both at home and school will help reinforce menstruation as a physiological phenomenon.

"Let's look at the age of menarche. The average age is between 10 and 15 years. Both puberty occurring before the age of eight, which is called precocious puberty, and delayed puberty beyond the age of 16 should be evaluated. Mostly, puberty occurs between 10 and 12 years. So, ideally, schools should start educating girls about menstrual hygiene and how it is a normal physiological process when they are in class V. The school environment should be conducive, enabling them to change sanitary pads, and clean toilets are important," she said.

Girls in Mumbai learn about menstrual hygiene at an event in April. TRUPTI AREKAR

While the Federation of Obstetric and Gynaecological Societies of India maintains that the average age of menarche is 13.5, this is not the case in urban areas, where the average age of puberty is 10.5 to 11.5. Dr. Jaishree Gajaraj added: "The reason is that children are now more obese, as a result of which estrogen production increases and hormonal imbalances are triggered. Lifestyle and food habits are leading to obesity in children."

There are numerous doubts and concerns surrounding menstruation. But there is no need to worry about a number of things. As Dr. Sumana Manohar puts it: "Irregular periods are quite common in the first three years of menarche. This is not a matter of great concern. Two to three cycles of periods in a year for the first three years, and three to four cycles of periods from the third year are normal as they do not ovulate properly."

Irregular periods

Anxious mothers taking their daughters to doctors for a number of related issues is quite common. "We see mothers bringing in their daughters for irregular periods. This is not something to worry about. Due to irregular periods, there may be heavy bleeding or pain that can be managed without medications. But, if there is profuse bleeding and unbearable pain, medical attention is required. Some of the main concerns that parents raise are lower abdominal pain and cramps. It is important for mothers to reassure their daughters and there is nothing to be scared about," she added.

K. Kalaivani, director, Institute of Obstetrics and Gynaecology and Government Hospital for Women and Children, said children should be informed that pain or cramps are quite normal on the first and second days of periods, which will then subside.

"Some are worried about excessive bleeding. It varies from person to person. They need not worry because it subsides after the third day," she said.

Stressing hygiene, she said, "Some do not bathe for three days, but that shouldn't be the case. Personal hygiene is important. Times have changed, and there is better access to sanitary pads with the State government supplying them free to schools.

"Vending machines have also come up in a number of places," she said.

Dr. Jaishree says young children should use regular sanitary pads, while those over 20 years – married or unmarried – can use menstrual cups.

"We should tell children that this is a very normal physiological event. It should be taught in a way that in the years to come, children will look at it that way. To enable better orientation towards menstruation, we should educate both girls and boys simultaneously. Parents and older siblings should be encouraged when questions are asked and there should be no secrecy," she added.

(serena.m@thehindu.co.in)

For feedback and suggestions
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Taxi drivers in State demand amenities in hotels and resorts

Most of them on outstation trips spend nights inside the car as they are not provided accommodation by the hotels

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy has acknowledged the issues faced by cab drivers. FILE PHOTO

I sleep in my car for ten days straight while on duty because no rooms are provided in hotels and resorts for drivers," said Prasanth Babu, a cab driver from Bengaluru.

This is not an isolated case. Most taxi drivers on outstation trips spend their nights inside the car since hotels, resorts, and homestays do not offer them accommodation.

"During the 15 years I have been driving, only a few passengers have been considerate to book a room for us. Most customers don't care, and we end up sleeping in the car. Hotels and resorts don't even provide separate toilets for us, so we have to use public toilets," Mr. Babu added.

Security issues

Recently, in Madikeri, Kodagu, a large tree fell on a taxi parked at a prominent resort. Though the driver was inside the car, fortunately, he was unharmed. Following this incident, cab drivers at the resort protested against the resort's poor treatment of drivers.

Prithvi Raj, a cab driver present at the resort, said, "We are made to park our cars in unsafe areas, despite Kodagu being known for heavy rains that can cause trees to fall at any time. The resort staff are putting our lives at risk." He added, "The washrooms and toilets provided are in terrible condition and unusable. The area where we park the car is near the garbage, and there are mosquitoes. It's an inhumane way of treating us."

Given all these incidents of ill-treatment of cab drivers, the Karnataka State Travel Operators' Association has now demanded that the government implement guidelines similar to those in Tamil Nadu, which require hotels, resorts, and homestays to provide amenities for their guests' drivers.

T.N. guidelines

According to the notification issued by the Housing and Urban Development Department, under the Tamil Nadu Town and Country Planning Act, 1971, and the Tamil Nadu Urban Local Bodies Act, 1998, one-bed space in the dormitory must be provided for each car parking space required for the guest rooms.

For every eight beds, a separate toilet and a separate bathroom must be provided, attached to the dormitory, exclusively to accommodate the drivers of the guests.

The dormitory should be located either within the premises of the hotel or lodge or within a 250-meter radius of the premises.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Radhakrishna Holla, president of the Karnataka State Travel Operators' Association, said, "Such a rule should be implemented in Karnataka also, as the State is a major player in the tourism industry. Our cab drivers face unsafe environments while on duty every day. Cab drivers who rest briefly by the roadside are often robbed and attacked. Many drivers who are away from their families do not get proper food, as these resorts are often located far from cities or towns."

"The government cannot ignore the immense contributions of drivers in the tourism sector. It is high time that the State government frames rules to ensure basic amenities for drivers in hotels, resorts, and homestays," Mr. Holla added.

Minister's assurance

Meanwhile, speaking to *The Hindu*, Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy acknowledged the issues faced by cab drivers. "We will review the rules framed in Tamil Nadu and other States and explore the possibility of implementing similar regulations after consulting stakeholders," he said.

Southwest monsoon likely to hit Karnataka on June 2, says IMD

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

With the southwest monsoon setting in over Kerala on Thursday (May 30), the India Meteorological Department, Bengaluru, has forecast that conditions are favourable for the monsoon to advance further into some parts of south Karnataka by June 2.

The daily weather report issued by the IMD for Karnataka on Thursday said, "Southwest monsoon has advanced into remaining parts of southwest Arabian Sea, some parts of west-central Arabian Sea, most parts southeast Arabian Sea and Lakshadweep area, Kerala, Mahe, some parts of south Tamil Nadu, remaining parts of Maldives and Comorin area; Thus, the southwest monsoon has set in over Kerala, today the 30th May 2024."

It further added that conditions are favourable for the southwest monsoon to advance further into some more parts of the central Arabian Sea, the remaining parts of the south Arabian Sea, Lakshadweep area and Kerala, some parts of Karnataka, and some more parts of Tamil Nadu during the next two to three days.

"The southwest monsoon is likely to hit the southern parts of Karnataka on June 2. The districts of Chamarajnagar, Mysuru, and Kodagu, besides the coastal districts of Dakshina Kannada, Udupi are likely to receive showers," C.S. Patil, a scientist at IMD, Bengaluru, said.

Thundershowers associated with gusty winds are likely to occur in the city. K. MURALI KUMAR

The districts of Chamarajnagar, Mysuru, and Kodagu are likely to receive showers

The forecast for June 2 states that heavy rain and thundershowers associated with gusty winds (30-40 kmph) are very likely to occur at isolated places over Raichur, Yadgir, Koppal, Bagalkot, Vijayapura, Ramanagara, Kodagu, Bengaluru Rural, Bengaluru Urban, Kolar, Chikkaballapur, Mysuru, Mandya districts.

Family of five sustain burns at home

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A couple and their three minor children sustained severe burns in a fire that broke out in their house in M.S. Nagar in Sampigehalli on Wednesday night. The injured Madan Chahar, his wife and children were admitted to Victoria Hospital.

The couple hails from Nepal, and Madan works as a security guard and a food delivery person. The incident occurred around 11.30 p.m. when Madan returned home from work and lit the stove to heat food for dinner. Immediately, a massive fire broke out, suspected to be from a leakage of cooking gas.

Registration for medical courses

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Examinations Authority said that candidates will have three days after the announcement of UGNEET-2024 results to register online to become eligible for admission to Medical, Dental, Ayurveda, Unani, and Homoeopathy courses.

Miscreants posing as CBI officials blackmail students, extort ₹90K

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Soladevanahalli police on Thursday arrested a gang of four, including a 42-year-old man from Kerala, for allegedly posing as CBI officials and robbing students. The accused, Pramod, a hotel management course graduate working in a hotel in Thiruvananthapuram, used to visit his sister's house in Hesaraghatta, where a group of four students from Kerala stayed in a rented house.

Noticing the students' lifestyle, Pramod hit upon an idea to make quick money and roped in his friends, Ananthakrishna, a college dropout, Deepak, a private firm employee, and Adarsha. On Monday, they barged into the house of the students posing as CBI officials, flashing a gun and fake ID cards.

Charging the students with possessing drugs, they assaulted them. They forced the students to hold a packet of marijuana that they had brought with them and videographed them. The four attackers threatened the students with foisting a drug case against them and uploading the video on social media if they didn't transfer ₹90,000.

After the money was transferred to Adarsha's account, the miscreants began calling the students for more money, after which a police complaint was registered.

Shortening election process is a necessary reform, says Lavasa

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Election Commission of India (ECI), along with all stakeholders in the electoral process, must re-consider the scheduling of the elections, especially its long-drawn process, said Ashok Lavasa, former Election Commissioner of India, on Wednesday.

Shortening the election process is a necessary reform that will "improve the quality of campaigning and put less stress on the resources of all concerned," he remarked, speaking at a webinar on "Umpiring Elections 2024: The Role of Election Commission of India", according to a release by Bengaluru Collective, a forum of concerned citizens engaged with current political and social issues, which had organised the event.

Making a strong case for transparency in the functioning of the Election Commission of India and for reform in many areas of its functioning, Mr. Lavasa noted that it is the only institution created under the Constitution that has a direct "trust bond" with the citizens of the country.

On the Model Code of Conduct (MCC), he said the ECI must have a monitoring mechanism to show what action has been taken in respect of violations of the MCC so that people know "there is no laxness towards election offences."

ADI calls for extension to action plan on public health response to dementia

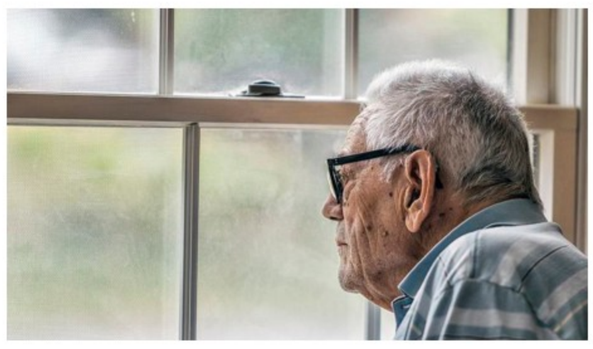
Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

A new report titled "From Plan to Impact", released on May 29 at the World Health Assembly, has revealed that less than a fifth of all 194 World Health Organisation (WHO) member states, including India, have followed through on their promise to develop a National Dementia Plan by 2025.

Following this, Alzheimer's Disease International (ADI) has called for a 10-year extension to WHO's global action plan on the public health response to dementia which launched in 2017. Dementia is an umbrella term for several diseases affecting memory, other cognitive abilities and behaviour that interfere significantly with a person's ability to maintain their activities of daily living.

Grouped health plan

"Currently, in India, dementia is referred to in an existing grouped health plan, but not as a separate health condition and any such plan has not yet been launched. However, India has committed funding for some of the seven action areas outlined in the WHO global action plan on dementia," the report stated.


According to the World Health Organisation, 55 million are estimated to be living with dementia worldwide. GETTY IMAGES

According to the World Health Organisation, in 2015, before the global action plan was launched, 47 million people were estimated to be living with dementia worldwide. Currently, this figure exceeds 55 million and is forecast to increase to 78 million by 2030 and 139 million by 2050, the report pointed out.

Renu Vohra, Chairperson of the Alzheimer's and Related Disorders Society of India (ARDSI), said India lacks an exclusive policy for dementia support. National dementia plans are crucial to ensure health systems can provide access to new diagnostics, treatments, and vital care and support, she said.

"While other BRICS countries such as Brazil, Russia and China already have dementia action plans in place, India's dementia plan is still pending. We submitted a draft action plan to the Union Health Ministry in 2018. ARDSI is planning to submit another representation, in this regard to the new government soon after its formation," she said.

P.T. Sivakumar, professor and Head of the Geriatric Psychiatry Unit at NIMHANS, said a multidisciplinary team of experts from NIMHANS and Dementia India Alliance, headed by Radha S. Murthy, is actively collaborating with the Karnataka Health Department to draft a State action plan.

"At the State level, NIMHANS and DIA have advocated for an action plan and the Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao has declared dementia as a public health priority," he said.

Prevalence in India

Recent estimates reveal a dementia prevalence rate of 7.4% among those aged 60 years and above in India. From an estimated 88 lakh in 2016, the prevalence of dementia is projected to increase to 1.69 crore by 2036 in the country. In Karnataka, the prevalence of this neurodegenerative brain disease is estimated to be more than five lakh, the doctor said.

SI trapped by Lokayukta in Mysuru

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

A woman police sub-inspector (SI) in Mysuru was on Thursday trapped by the Lokayukta police while she was allegedly receiving a bribe. The SI, Radha, attached to the Kuvempunagar police station was allegedly caught while she was accepting ₹50,000 from the complainant K.B. Mahesh, a civil contractor. According to Superintendent of Lokayukta police, Mysuru, V.J. Sajeeth, Mr. Mahesh had approached the Lokayukta police with a complaint that Ms. Radha was demanding ₹2 lakh for release of valuables and property papers belonging to him that had been seized by the police in connection with a case.

Timings
BENGALURU

FRIDAY, MAY. 31	
RISE 05:53	SET 18:42
RISE 00:48	SET 12:55
SATURDAY, JUN. 01	
RISE 05:53	SET 18:43
RISE 01:30	SET 13:50
SUNDAY, JUN. 02	
RISE 05:53	SET 18:43
RISE 02:11	SET 14:45

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	33	25
Mysuru	32	23
Bengaluru	32	22

Bengaluru Today
32°C A dry weather to prevail. Morning will be pleasant Day will be little warm and humid. Night also will be pleasant. Thunderstorm may occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
33°C The weather will be warm and humid. Night will comfortable. Spell of light rain and thundershower is likely to occur.

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THE HINDU
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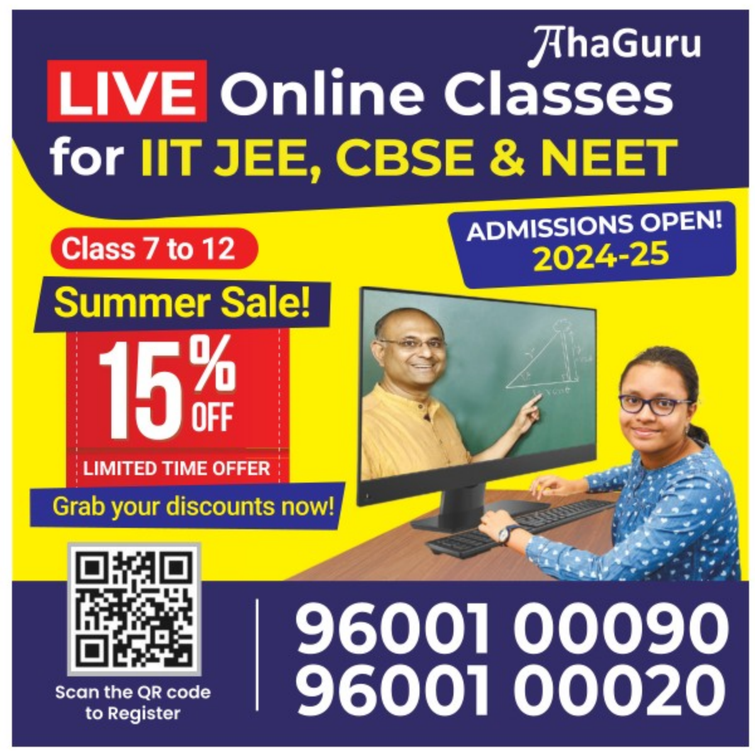
Two held for stealing phone

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Banasawadi police on Thursday arrested a 21-year-old business administration graduate and his associate for allegedly robbing a mobile phone from a private firm employee on April 24.

The accused, Pawan Appu, 21, from HBR Layout, roped in his associate Xavier, 26, to target people talking on their phones while walking. They snatched the phone from Pushkar Kumar near the Lingarajapuram flyover. Following a complaint, the police stepped up vigil and caught the two. The mobile phone was later recovered.



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ISSN 0971 - 751X

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Russian boats destroyed by Ukraine using naval drones

2 In response, Russia claimed to have intercepted 13 aerial drones and shot down eight missiles over the Sea of Azov. Additionally, Russia's Federal Security Service reported foiling sabotage attacks on Crimean railway lines, detaining four suspects and killing their leader. AFP

Times an AI image was shared on Instagram with 'All eyes on Rafah'

44 in million. The hashtag #alleyesonrafah has nearly one million hits on X, with 27.5 million messages about the attack on Rafah posted in three days. This was posted following the Israeli strike in Gaza killing 45 and injuring 249. AFP

Number of countries that host a Google data centre

12 Malaysia became the latest country to do so as Google announced its investment of $2 billion in the country to establish its inaugural data centre and a Google Cloud hub. This investment is expected to add $3.2 billion to the economy. PTI

English spinner Sophie Ecclestone's ODI wicket count

100 Among women cricketers, she is the the fastest to reach this mark. The 25-year-old spinner from England accomplished this milestone by taking three wickets in England's 178-run triumph over Pakistan. REUTERS

Number of people rescued by Assam rifles in Manipur

1,000 The State was badly hit by incessant rains due to cyclone Remal. The Assam Rifles began distributing essential food items as intense rains left many trapped. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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The tobacco epidemic in India

Tobacco causes a wide range of diseases and affects those consuming it as well as those cultivating it. There is a need for up-to-date data to understand trends in tobacco use to tackle the tobacco industry

EXPLAINER

Varun Raj Passi
Parth Sharma

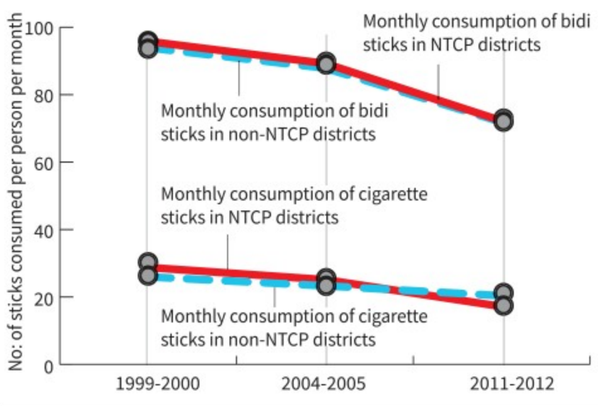
Tobacco is the most widely recognised preventable cause of disease and death in the world. It causes a wide range of diseases and affects those consuming it as well as those cultivating it. After China, India has the world's highest number of tobacco consumers – nearly 26 crore, according to an estimate in 2016-2017. Additionally, the health of more than 60 lakh people employed in the tobacco industry is also placed at risk because of the absorption of tobacco through the skin, which can cause various diseases.

Tobacco's deleterious influence extends beyond human health. It is a highly erosive crop that rapidly depletes soil nutrients. This requires more fertilizers to be used which further worsens soil quality. The plant is also a major contributor to deforestation. Up to 5.4 kg of wood is required to process 1 kg of tobacco. The production and consumption of tobacco generates nearly 1.7 lakh tonnes of waste every year in India. Therefore, tobacco production and use impose a heavy economic burden on India. A 2021 study estimated that the country incurred a loss exceeding ₹1.7 lakh crore as a result of tobacco's effects on the health of its consumers in the fiscal year 2017-2018. To compare, the Union Budget allocated for health in the same year was ₹48,000 crore. In addition, cleaning up tobacco waste has been estimated to cost close to ₹6,367 crore a year. These estimates exclude the costs due to soil erosion and deforestation.

To go up in smoke

Nearly 26 crore Indians are tobacco consumers, according to an estimate in 2016-2017. While usage and consumption has been going down, effective tobacco control is still a pipe dream

Chart 1: Comparison of monthly consumption of bidi and cigarettes between National Tobacco Control Program (NTCP) districts and non-NTCP districts



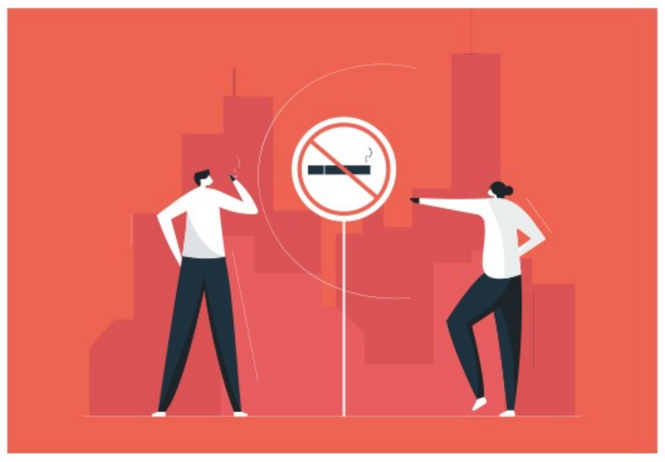


Chart 2: Trends in tobacco usage in different population groups

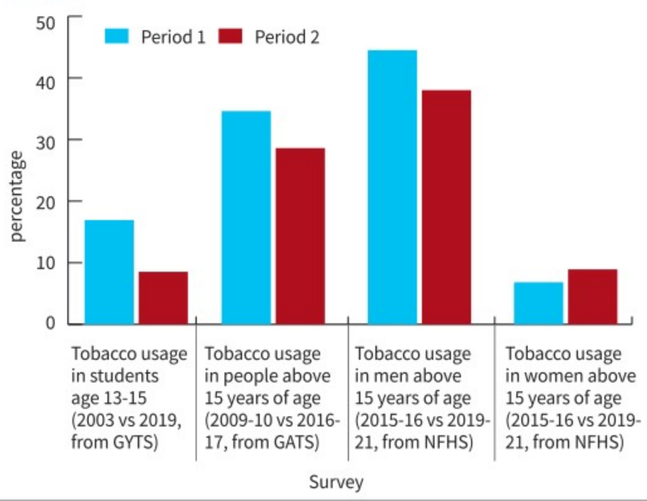
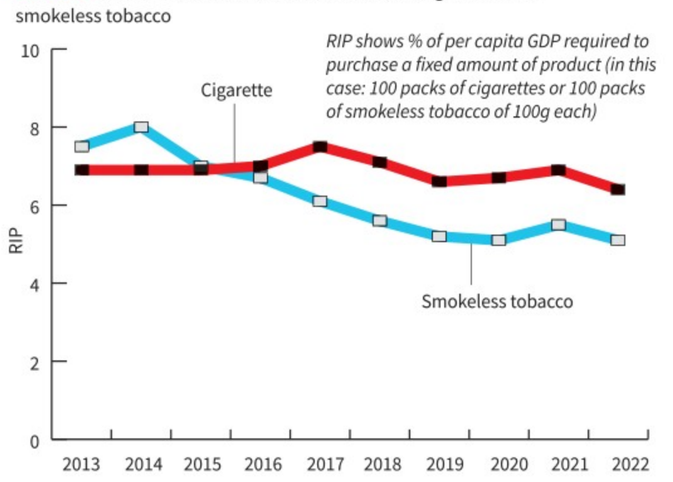

percentage
50
40
30
20
10
0
Period 1
Period 2
Tobacco usage in students age 13-15 (2003 vs 2019, from GYTS)
Tobacco usage in people above 15 years of age (2009-10 vs 2016-17, from GATS)
Tobacco usage in men above 15 years of age (2015-16 vs 2019-21, from NFHS)
Tobacco usage in women above 15 years of age (2015-16 vs 2019-21, from NFHS)
Survey

Chart 3: Trends in Relative Income Price (RIP) for cigarettes and smokeless tobacco



Source: Nazar, G.P. et al, 2020 doi:10.1136/tobaccocontrol-2018-054621, Health Taxes in India, The World Bank

THE GIST

- After China, India has the world's highest number of tobacco consumers, with nearly 26 crore per an estimate in 2016-2017.
- India is one of the 168 signatories of the WHO's Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC), launched in 2005. It aims to reduce tobacco usage worldwide by helping countries develop demand and supply reduction strategies.
- With government support, it is possible to help tobacco farmers switch to farming alternate crops, avoiding loss of livelihood, as shown by multiple studies conducted by the Central Tobacco Research Institute. In fact, for large-scale tobacco farmers, the net return per rupee of investment in jowar cultivation (1.84) is higher than tobacco (1.48).

The status of tobacco use in India

The Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS), the Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS), and India's National Family Health Survey (NFHS) capture the status of tobacco use in India. GYTS assesses tobacco use in students between the ages of 13 and 15 years and GATS and NFHS in people above 15 years of age.

Overall, the results of these surveys have been promising: tobacco use has gone down in the population groups studied by these surveys. An exception to this is tobacco use in women, which went up by 2.1% between 2015-2016 and NFHS 2019-2021. This said, a major caveat is that no survey has been conducted since the COVID-19 pandemic.

Awareness and control programmes

India is one of the 168 signatories of the WHO's Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC), launched in 2005. It aims to reduce tobacco usage worldwide by helping countries develop demand and supply reduction strategies. A law to govern tobacco sales in India has existed since 1975 and was amended in 2003. The Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply, and Distribution) Act (COTPA) 2003 has 33 sections governing the production, advertisement, distribution, and consumption of tobacco.

India also launched the National Tobacco Control Program (NTCP) in 2007. NTCP is designed to improve the implementation of COTPA and FCTC, improve awareness about the harms of tobacco use, and help people quit it. Apart from these interventions, tobacco taxation – a globally accepted method to effectively control tobacco use – is also applied in India.

However, existing measures are poorly implemented. Smokeless tobacco products (SLTs) have predominantly been non-compliant with COTPA packaging guidelines. Smuggled tobacco products – both smoked and smokeless forms – have also been badly regulated. To make matters worse, the fines for violating COTPA regulations have not been updated since 2003. For instance, a tobacco company is fined a maximum of only ₹5,000 for violating packaging restrictions for the first time.

Further, while the COTPA bans direct advertisements, the position on indirect advertisements is unclear, which has allowed surrogate advertisements: they popularise the brand using a proxy product like elaichi, to promote tobacco manufactured by the same brand. The ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 displayed surrogate advertisements for at least two tobacco brands, which were endorsed by famous cricketers. These advertisements are problematic as they indirectly promote tobacco use.

Becoming more affordable

Amendments to COTPA had been proposed in 2015 and 2020. The changes suggested in 2015 included regulations on surrogate advertisements, inclusion of films and video games in the definition of 'advertisement', and increasing the fines for violation of advertisement norms by a factor of 10. The amendment proposed in 2020 would have made licensing necessary for the production, supply, and distribution of tobacco products. But neither Bill was passed.

The NTCP's effectiveness has also come into question. A 2018 study in the journal *BMJ Tobacco Control* reported no significant difference in the reduction of *bidi* or cigarette consumption between NTCP and non-NTCP districts. Possible reasons for this included insufficient staffing, resource allocation, and utilisation, and lack of effective monitoring mechanisms.

The Indian government's efforts to levy excise duty on tobacco have also been marred by tax evasion, such as by purchasing tobacco products in lower tax jurisdictions, and illegal methods such as smuggling, illicit manufacturing, and counterfeiting. Low tobacco taxes in India, which have not matched the rise in people's income, have kept tobacco affordable over the years. A 2021 study in *BMJ Tobacco Control* reported that cigarettes, *bidis*, and SLTs had become more affordable in the preceding 10 years, and that transitioning to the Goods and Services Tax regime had rendered cigarettes and SLTs more affordable.

Tax measures and lobbying

Rijo M. John, an economist and tobacco policy analyst, estimated the tax burden to be 51% for cigarettes, 22% for *bidis*, and 64% for SLTs, much lower than the FCTC's recommendation of at least 75% tax. The tobacco lobby often argues that high taxes on tobacco lead to tax evasion. However, non-tax factors are equally, if not more, important. These factors include weak governance, high levels of corruption, poor government commitment to tackling illicit tobacco, ineffective customs and tax administration, and informal distribution channels for tobacco products.

In a progressive move, the Prohibition of Electronic Cigarette Act (PECA), 2019 banned e-cigarettes in India – yet they continue to remain a major public health challenge in the country. (The safe amount of tobacco is zero, and e-cigarettes' usefulness in de-addiction has been questioned.) In one online survey completed by 840 adults, 23% reported having used e-cigarettes and 8% reported daily use.

Finally, the role of lobbying by the tobacco industry can't be understated. Effective lobbying has led to the exemption of cess on *bidis* and smaller tobacco manufacturers to be continuously extended. It is public knowledge that government officials, both in-service and retired, engage with the tobacco industry. For example, a retired Indian Administrative Services officer joined the board of Godfrey Phillips as an independent director in 2022. Moreover, the Central government holds a 7.8% stake in ITC Ltd., India's largest tobacco company. India's score on the tobacco interference index – which calculates the degree of interference by the tobacco industry in governance – has also worsened since 2021.

Catching up with industry

COTPA, PECA, and NTCP provide a strong framework to successfully control tobacco production and use in India. But they need to be implemented more stringently. In addition, the tax on tobacco products also needs to be increased in line with the recommendations of the FCTC, inflation, and GDP growth.

With government support, it is also possible to help tobacco farmers switch to farming alternate crops, avoiding loss of livelihood, as shown by multiple studies conducted by the Central Tobacco Research Institute. In fact, for large-scale tobacco farmers, the net return per rupee of investment in jowar cultivation (1.84) is higher than tobacco (1.48). There is also a need for up-to-date data to understand trends in tobacco use to tackle the tobacco industry, which modifies its sales strategies based on readily available sales trends. Without such data, we will always remain a step behind the industry, and effective tobacco control will remain nothing but a pipe dream.

Varun Raj Passi and Parth Sharma are public health researchers at the Association for Socially Applicable Research (ASAR).

The land in Suranahalli, Holenarsipur taluk, which was notified for a housing scheme, forcing the residents to launch a legal fight to reclaim their land. SATHISH G.T.

How politics turned fertile land barren

Residents of Suranahalli in Hassan district, Karnataka, have resisted the conversion of their arable land into housing sites since 1996. **Sathish G.T.** spoke to villagers, who allege that their suffering has much to do with them falling out of favour with former Minister H.D. Revanna

A kilometre to the east of Holenarsipur town, a politically significant place in Hassan district in south Karnataka, a verdant landscape dotted with coconut trees and neatly planted rows of maize greets travellers. It's a picturesque sight that would make anyone pause for a moment and take a deep breath. A small board bears the name: Suranahalli.

The wetland on the banks of the Hemavathi River is suitable for paddy cultivation. People here earn a regular income from dairy farming, too, by selling milk to the Hassan Milk Union, one of the best-performing dairies in the State. However, over the last three decades, most of the village's families have hardly seen any financial growth. Behind this is the tale of their land, caught in legal battles and political rivalry.

Two prominent political families belong to the area: former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda represented the Holenarasipur Assembly constituency for nearly three decades, and Puttaswamy Gowda, who contested as an Independent candidate against him in 1985. The animosity between the two has grown over the years as the next generations entered politics. People of Suranahalli have, by and large, stood by Puttaswamy Gowda. They believe this is the reason former Minister H.D. Revanna, son of Deve Gowda, targeted them whenever he was in power.

Revanna is currently in the news as an accused in two criminal cases against him: for allegedly kidnapping a woman and sexually harassing a former domestic help. His son and MP Prajwal Revanna faces charges of sexually abusing many women and is facing a Special Investigation Team probe.

As Minister in the 90s

When Deve Gowda became the Prime Minister in 1996, giving up his Chief Minister's post, J.H. Patel succeeded him. He inducted Holenarasipur MLA Revanna into his Cabinet and offered him the Housing portfolio. "He proposed a housing project by acquiring wetlands in 1996," said S.H. Mohan Kumar, a resident of the village and advocate.

A preliminary notification for the acquisition of 88 acres of land was issued on June 27, 1996. Though the land was fertile, the records were allegedly "created" to show it as barren land so that acquisition could be easy, according to Mohan Kumar. Within a year, a final notification was issued for acquisition. By 1998, the award for the land losers was fixed at ₹59,000 per acre. "By then, the market rate of the land was above ₹1 lakh per acre. We moved the court with a writ petition challenging the acquisition," the advocate said. Even as their petition was pending in the High Court, the Janata Dal government lost power in the 1999 Assembly elections. The party split into two, and both factions suffered defeat. Revanna, too, lost the battle for Holenarsipur. The Congress came to power under the leadership of S.M. Krishna.

> Half of the work was done and stopped later as we continued to protest. Nobody got compensation for the land taken for the road.
>
> **NANJUNDE GOWDA**
> farmer

Former Minister and Congress leader G. Puttaswamy Gowda supported the residents of Suranahalli. The Town Municipal Council (TMC) adopted a resolution in December 1999 stating that the highly fertile wetland was not required for the housing project. A year later, the TMC also issued endorsements to the landowners that the land was in the possession of the farmers.

Based on this resolution, the Congress government dropped the acquisition process in July 2000, relieving the landowners, said Suresh H.N., a retired government employee and resident of Suranahalli. A portion of his ancestral property was also a part of the 88 acres notified for acquisition.

However, the farmers' joy did not last long. "Revanna ensured that the people, who were to be beneficiaries of the proposed housing project, challenged the de-notification order in court," said Mohan Kumar. While the petition was before the court, there were again changes in the State government.

Following a hung Assembly in the 2004 polls, the Cong-JD(S) combination ruled the State under the leadership of Dharam Singh for 20 months. H.D. Kumaraswamy, then MLA, allegedly orchestrated a rebellion within the JD(S) and ensured JD(S)-BJP combine came to power under his leadership in 2006. A few months after the alliance assumed office, Revanna became a Minister, and he was allotted PWD and Energy portfolios. Besides that, he was the Minister in charge of Hassan district, too.

Back to court

Revanna ensured that the land issue was revisited. On September 13, 2007, the JD(S)-BJP alliance withdrew the de-notification issued by the previous Congress government. The government maintained that the land was already in the possession of Holenarasipur TMC, and hence, the de-notification issued by the previous government was withdrawn. The farmers, yet again, moved the High Court. During the proceedings, the court noted contradictory statements by the State government on the status of the land. While issuing the de-notification order, the government said the land was still in the possession of the farmers. However, while withdrawing the order (in 2007), the government said the land was already with the TMC.

"The court took note of the contradictory statements and gave a direction to the Revenue Department to hold an inquiry and find out the actual status of the land," recalled Mohan Kumar.

On August 7, 2012, the then Principal Secretary of the Revenue Department declared that the land in Suranahalli was in the possession of the Chief Officer of Holenarasipur TMC.

The farmers argued that the officer had arrived at this opinion even before listening to them. They were served a notice to appear before the officer on the day the report was finalised. Mohan Kumar alleges that the officer was "under pressure".

In 2012, the landowners challenged the officer's report in court with a writ petition. The court ruled in favour of the farmers. "Every time, we have to fight in court to get justice. We have been doing this since 2000. I don't know how long we should continue with this," rued Nanjunde Gowda, also a farmer in Suranahalli. The court's ruling came in support of the farmers' claim to ownership of the land again. By 2013, the Congress government, led by Siddaramaiah, had come to power in the state. "We put pressure on the government to return us our land. Hence, the government issued *pahani*s (documents of rights, tenancy and crops, or RTCs) in our name," said Suresh. But this has not solved their problems. They are not free to sell their land or take a loan by pledging it. "That is because again, Holenarasipur TMC adopted a resolution stating that it required the same land for the project. The council moved the court. Though *pahanai*s of the land are in our name, it has been mentioned on the records that the matter is pending before the court. Hence, nobody can do any transaction on the land," said Mohan Kumar.

Road to nowhere

Besides the housing project, the landowners have also suffered because of a road project that was planned for the same locality. When Revanna was the Minister for Public Works, he took up a project to build a 1.8 km-long by-pass for Suranahalli village. A road that intersects the village connects Holenarasipur and Channarayapatna towns.

"If there was a need to improve the road, the same could have been widened by taking additional land on either side. But Revanna, through Karnataka Road Development Corporation, proposed a by-pass road by acquiring about 15 acres of land," said Mohan Kumar. Later, the work was handed over to the National Highways Division.

However, the work did not proceed. Currently, the incomplete two-way road leads nowhere. "The road was designed such that it intersects the land of Mohan Kumar, the advocate fighting for the farmers of the village. I don't know how long we should continue to fight such issues," wondered Suresh.

The notification to acquire the land required for the road was issued in 2006. Within a year, the road construction began. "There was no procedure to award compensation for the land losers. Half of the work was done and stopped later as we continued to protest.

Nobody got compensation for the land taken for the road," said 75-year-old Nanjunde Gowda, whose 13 guntas of land was acquired for the road. Since 2007, he has not been able to either cultivate the land or sell it off. "I have two sons. I need to share the remaining land between my sons. But I have not been able to do so. Like me, many in the village have been suffering for decades," he said.

Besides the housing project, the landowners have also suffered because of a road project that was planned for the same locality. SATHISH G.T.

Families suffer

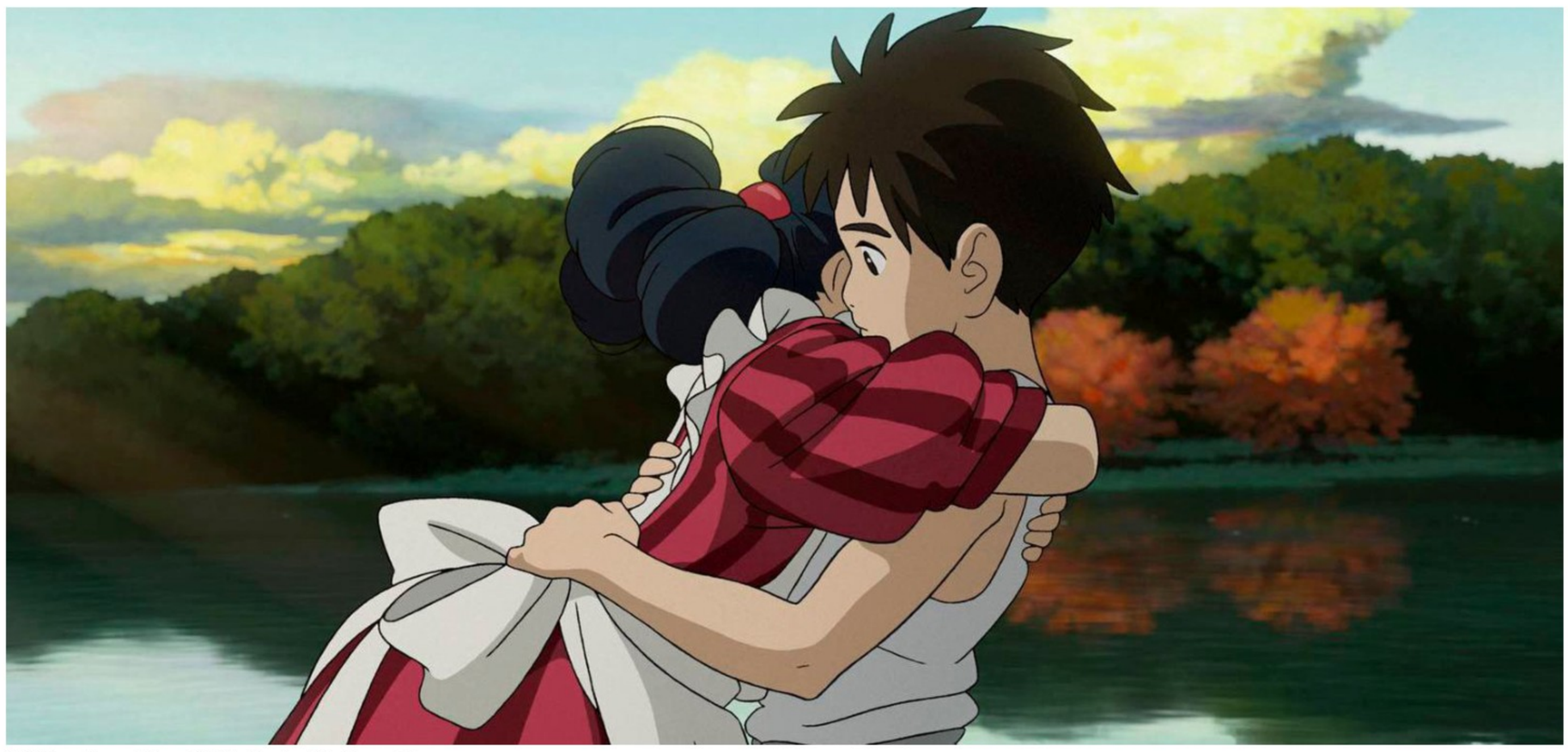
Since 1996, the ownership of the land has been in dispute in the entire village. Around 200 families who own the land have fought legal battles all these years. "Many of them have died over the years without enjoying the land they inherited from their ancestors. The younger generation is also continuing the fight," said Rajappa, a resident of the village.

For the majority of households in rural areas, agricultural land is the primary source of income. Whenever they face a major financial requirement, either to get children married, provide them with higher education, or attend to a medical emergency in the family, the farmers sell a portion of it or mortgage it to raise a loan. "We have not been able to do any of these things in the last 28 years," said Suresh.

In recent years, the value of the land has increased due to urbanization. As this piece of land is part of Holenarasipur TMC, there are ample opportunities to convert it into residential layouts and earn profit. However, the owners of this land cannot alienate it or sell it to anyone. Ironically, this is also the reason why this area has remained green and not converted and sold as housing sites.

"The housing scheme was proposed to benefit poor people. However, the scheme has not been implemented so far. This clearly shows that the idea was to harass us. We have suffered for years. Many who fought for their land have died over the years. Who will bear the cost of our suffering?" asks Suresh, hoping that the dispute will be settled once and for all during his lifetime.

IN THE LIMELIGHT



A still from Hayao Miyazaki's *The Boy And The Heron*. AP

Studio Ghibli's unsung secret sauce behind 'The Boy and the Heron's' success

With a career spanning over four decades and hundreds of original scores, Japanese composer Joe Hisaishi's intimate compositions breathe life into Ghibli's make-believe world — it's the method in Miyazaki's mesmerising madness

Ayaan Paul

Indian Ghibli fans have always had their work cut out for them. A decade after his last cinematic outing with *The Wind Rises*, it seems to have taken a Golden Globe, a BAFTA and an Academy Award for Hayao Miyazaki's beloved anime studio to have convinced Indian distributors of the film's chops. Today, a few weeks since the film first premiered in the country, remnants of the bewitching dream still linger.

The marvels of Mahito's adventures in Miyazaki-land, however, would most certainly feel bereft of the characteristically Ghibli charm that had Indian fans flock to the theatres like a siege of herons without the secret sauce behind the studio's spellbinding success.

The journey

Born Mamoru Fujisawa, 73-year-old Joe Hisaishi's journey into music began at the age of four when he started learning violin. An early exposure to a plethora of films through his father laid the foundation for his future career. Hisaishi's early works, composed under his given name, include music for the anime series *Gyatoruzu* in 1974, as well as *Sasuga no Sarutobi* and *Futari Daka*. His compositions during the 1970s were influenced by J-pop, New Age, and the late Ryuichi Sakamoto's early Japanese electronic band, Yellow Magic Orchestra. This mix of influences created a cornucopia of themes and helped him develop his music from minimalist ideas to expansive orchestral works.

The turning point in Hisaishi's career came in 1983 when he created an image album for Miyazaki's *Nausicaä of the Valley of the Wind*. This collaboration was the first of many with Miyazaki, drawing obvious parallels to the legendary partnership between director Steven Spielberg and composer John Williams. As Hisaishi's fame grew, he crafted his alias inspired by the American composer Quincy Jones. The name "Quincy," pronounced "Kuinshī" in Japanese, shares the same kanji as "Hisaishi," while "Joe" was borrowed from "Jones."

Hisaishi's music for Studio Ghibli guides viewers through the emotive landscape of Miyazaki's imagined worlds. His music conceals a lesser-appreciated complexity behind the garb of simplicity that allows his compositions to become an inextricable part of the narrative.

Hisaishi's musical genius lies in his knack for filling the emotional gaps left by Miyazaki's minimalist dialogue. In *Spirited Away*, his score dances between uncertainty and resolve, perfectly capturing Chihiro's journey. His strategic use of silence, especially in *Howl's Moving Castle*, amplifies realism, making every musical note that follows feel like a revelation. The charming simplicity of Totoro and the epic grandeur of Mononoke demonstrate his understanding to mirror characters' growth, making their triumphs and tribulations feel deeply personal.

The magic of Hisaishi's music also lies in its ability to evoke a spectrum of emotions you can't quite put your finger on. Tracks like his most popular, 'One Summer's Day' from *Spirited Away,* flaunts this duality, blending melancholic undertones with a sense of uplifting resolution. His music has the rare ability to make audiences feel a sense of longing for places and times they have never known, creating an almost universal emotional experience that transcends cultural and linguistic barriers.

The grandeur of simplicity

Alongside his American contemporary in Williams, Hisaishi belongs to a group of film music titans, each wielding a unique style that defines the cinematic experience for legions of fans. Williams, the maestro behind the iconic sounds of *Star Wars*, *Indiana Jones* and *Jurassic Park*, boasts a jaw-dropping 52 Academy Award nominations, making him Hollywood's go-to guy for aural grandeur. On the flip side, Hisaishi weaves more introspective musical ideas. His scores, imbued with folk influences, create a gentle nostalgia that feels like a warm hug from a beloved childhood memory. Yet, despite his significant contributions, Hisaishi has never snagged an Oscar nod – an oversight that screams cultural bias louder than a Williams' crescendo. While Williams' symphonic fireworks align perfectly with Spielberg's, and by extension, Hollywood's love for spectacle, Hisaishi's compositions offer a soothing counterpoint to Miyazaki's imagination.

Hisaishi's score for Miyazaki's latest, *The Boy and the Heron*, stands as a testament to this synergy between composer and director – a reflective journey that mirrors Miyazaki's most personal and contemplative film to date. An artistic pivot from his previous grandiose orchestrations is Hisaishi's embrace of restraint, drawing on a Philip Glass-like classical minimalism to create an intimate auditory landscape that augments the film's emotional core.

The film, titled "How Do You Live?" in its original Japanese, presents a thematic enquiry that Hisaishi translates into the score's main motif, "Ask Me Why." This recurring piano and strings piece, marked by its childlike purity, reinforces the protagonist Mahito's quest for love and understanding following the loss of his mother. The theme's simplicity belies its emotional weight, growing richer with each repetition, ultimately culminating in a powerful orchestral rendition that signifies Mahito's emotional resolve in "Ask Me Why (Mahito's Commitment)".

A director's trust

Miyazaki's decision to grant Hisaishi free rein in scoring reflects a deep-seated trust and an evolution in their long-standing collaborative process.

Where previously Miyazaki's involvement shaped the music's direction, this time, Hisaishi was left to interpret the near-completed film independently. The result is a score that both complements and accentuates the film's dichotomous structure.

In its first half, the film depicts post-war Japan. Hisaishi's ideas are understated, relying heavily on sparse arrangements. Pieces like 'White Wall'' evoke the gentle lilt of Satie's. Tensions between Mahito and the mischievous heron are conveyed through 'A Feather in the Dusk', where strings rise and fall, a mirror to the boy's fluctuating emotions. The lighthearted 'Feather Fletching' and the ominous 'A Trap' juxtapose levity with suspense, leading to the film's pivotal transition.

As Mahito ventures into the ominous tower, Hisaishi expands the musical palette, with the score incorporating quirky percussion and electronic effects. 'Ark' features wobbly pitched percussion to reflect the vibrancy of this new fantastical realm, while 'Warawara' employs synthesised voices to drive home the ethereal. This sonic evolution parallels Mahito's journey from the mundane to the extraordinary, calling attention to the film's thematic progression.

Hisaishi's choice to focus on repeating patterns and eschewing overt emotional cues, aligns with Miyazaki's narrative intent. By maintaining a certain distance from the story, Hisaishi's score invites viewers to engage with the film on a more intuitive level, fostering a deeper emotional resonance without dictating sentiment.

Joe Hisaishi is the unsung hero of Ghibli, the method in Miyazaki's mesmerising madness.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

A quiz on different and unusual units of measurement

Vasudevan Mukunth

QUESTION 1

The renowned Hungarian and American mathematician John von Neumann is reputed to have said that the ideal length of a _____ should be one-millionth of a century, which is roughly 52.5 minutes. Fill in the blank with a teaching mode that's a fixture in universities.

QUESTION 2

In the early 18th century, steam engines started to replace purpose-bred work horses at various tasks. The shift prompted people to find a way to compare an engine's output to the amount of work done by horses, and thus the term horsepower (HP) was born. If 1 HP is equal to roughly 750 watt, what's the term for 250 watt?

QUESTION 3

X is a humorous unit of measurement used to denote a distance of around 3.08 cm. X is created by multiplying the distance denoted by a legitimate unit of distance measurement in astronomy with a prefix denoting a value of 10^-18. Name X.

QUESTION 4

Name the influential American programmer who likely founded the community known as 'hackers' and helped design the first Lisp machines. Since this fellow often neglected to bathe when he worked, his co-workers invented the term 'blatt' to denote strong and objectionable odours.

QUESTION 5

Y was an English physicist and Nobel laureate considered to be among the founders of quantum mechanics and whose work predicted the existence of the positron. Y was so laconic that his Cambridge University invented a unit to measure the rate at which taciturn people spoke: Y per hour. Name Y.

Visual question:
Name this political commentator who, during the Iraq War, became infamous for repeatedly claiming "the next six months" would prove crucial despite each such period passing without any relevant incident. His name thus became synonymous with a span of six months.

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. The number of attempts made by Hillary before he finally succeeded. **Ans: Eight**
2. The peak Hillary ascended before his expedition to Mt. Everest. **Ans: New Zealand, Mount Cook**
3. The year in which the first expedition to Mt. Everest was done. **Ans: 1921**
4. The two mountaineers who disappeared on the third attempt. **Ans: George Mallory, Andrew Irvine**
5. The first Indian to scale the Mt. Everest. **Ans: Avatar Singh Cheema in 1965**
Visual: Identify this mountaineer. **Ans: Arunima Sinha. She is the world's first female amputee to scale Mount Everest**
Early Birds: Nobody got all the correct answers

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmaniam

"Function word (Kilpatrick, Jones, R)."

"A function word is a word that expresses grammatical relationships in a sentence. Prepositions, conjunctions, articles are function words. These have grammatical meaning and not lexical meaning. These show their relationship to the other words in the sentence in which they occur.

I went to Madras.

He has borrowed from a lot of people.

The opposite of 'function word' is 'content word.' A content word has lexical or semantic meaning. Words like man, boy, fruit, beautiful, friend are content words. Content words have a meaning of their own. Function words have only grammatical meaning. Function words tell us how they function in a sentence. To, for, of, and, etc. are function words."

"Nip and tuck (Anil Jhaveri, Bombay)."

It means 'so close as to be of uncertain outcome, neck and neck.'

I don't know who will win. It is a close contest. It is nip and tuck.

'Nip and tuck' is of American origin. It was first used as a wrestling term in the 1880s. 'Nip and tack' and 'nip and chuck' were the other expressions used earlier. But now we use only 'nip and tuck'."

"The Present Perfect Tense"

We use the present perfect tense to denote past actions which have a bearing on the present.

I have done my homework and you can see it.

He has gone home.

She has received her salary.

We also use the present perfect when we want to convey news published in a newspaper or news that has been broadcasted or telecast.

The Prime Minister has said that the country must be vigilant.

There has been a train accident.

We do not use present perfect when we refer to some action that took place at a specific time in the past. That is, we do not use the present perfect with 'yesterday,' 'last night,' 'three years ago,' 'last week' ... 'He met with an accident last night', not 'He has met with an accident last night'. 'Where did you go last week?' not 'Where have you gone last week?' 'He was born in 1910', not 'He has been born in 1910'.

Expressions like so far, up to now, hitherto, refer to a period of time continuing up to 'now' and so they go with the present perfect tense.

I haven't met him so far.

Things have been good up to now.

But 'nowadays' and 'these days' go only with the present tense and not with the Present Perfect tense. Nowadays he is moody. These days he is moody.

When you want to refer to the immediate past, you use 'just' with the present perfect.

He has just gone out.

The meeting just begun.

She just finished her dinner.

In American English, the past tense is used with 'just' whereas in British English the present perfect is used. The meeting has just begun (British English). The meeting just began (American English)."

Published in The Hindu on March 17, 1992.

Word of the day

Attired:
dressed or clothed, especially in fine garments

Synonyms: garbed, robed

Usage: *He was an elegantly attired gentleman.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/attiredpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /əˈtaɪəd/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Swarathma goes green with a solar-powered concert tour ahead of its upcoming album *Raushan*

Rocking on sunshine

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The dusty road stretched ahead. Inside a car, a Swarathma song was brewing. A few months ago, the Bengaluru-based folk-rock music band members were on a research trip with the Selco Foundation, collaborating on songs for their initiative to bring clean energy to rural villages. A question sparked a brainwave between bursts of creative energy.

"We were literally writing music in the car," recalls Jishnu Dasgupta, bassist and vocalist. "When the thought struck us, if solar power can light up villages, why not a concert?" This question ignited the idea for Swarathma's upcoming multi-city concert tour (for its latest album *Raushan*), which will be powered by solar energy.

The tour, which kicked off in Mumbai on May 25, travels to Bengaluru on June 1 before heading to Pune, Hyderabad, Indore, Delhi, and Jaipur. The songs from the album will be released one at a time as the band travels to these cities.

"While there may have been some attempts at solar-powered concerts before, our goal is bigger," says Jishnu. "We want to demonstrate that a viable alternative to conventional energy exists for live events. We hope this becomes the standard, replacing the fossil fuels typically used for concerts."

"This isn't just about a unique stage setup; it's about proving that even large concerts with 1,000 people can run on renewable energy. That's the true challenge and what excites us most. Of course, we're also excited to just play these concerts for our fans," he adds.

The traditional approach to powering concerts relies on loud, polluting diesel generators. Jishnu highlights the challenge: "The amplification system doesn't care if the power source is clean or not. The long hours and the need for reliable power during a concert make generators the norm."

Swarathma's solution is a unique, multi-stage approach. Jishnu explains: "Ideally, we'd have solar panels directly powering the concert, but that's not always feasible. Our current system uses a large battery bank charged with clean energy sources whenever possible. This battery can power the sound system for the entire concert."

This initial tour focusses on powering the sound system. Future iterations may expand to include lighting and visuals. Jishnu emphasises the importance of a measured approach: "The sound system uses a steady power draw, unlike lighting, which can have surges. We're starting with powering just the sound to ensure stability before potentially expanding."

The ultimate goal is to inspire a broader shift within the music industry. Jishnu and the band envision a future where every city has a setup like this. "Imagine fans requesting eco-friendly concerts! This is about artists, music lovers, and the entire ecosystem working together for a more sustainable future," he says.

Message through music

Swarathma's music has always been a platform for social commentary, weaving narratives about various issues into their sound, both implicitly and explicitly.

"While many of our songs touch on social issues, this concert won't be a preachy environmental message fest. It'll be a typical Swarathma show with all our favourite tunes and some new stuff. We're known for writing socially conscious music, but it's not a forced thing - it just comes naturally through our songwriting," says Varun Murali, another vocalist and guitarist of Swarathma.

Jishnu adds, "Artists don't have all the answers, but we can be powerful amplifiers. We can use that power to reflect how we feel about the world around us. It's about using music to connect with our audience and explore what we care about together."

Known for their social awareness, Varun emphasises that Swarathma prioritises artistic freedom, but not every song needs a social message.

"Art is a personal expression. Some artists create for purely personal reasons, like expressing love through a song. It's unfair to expect every artist to convey a social message. It's like the criticism celebrities face for not knowing every fact," he says, "In Swarathma's case, our music isn't a conscious social commentary. The world around us naturally influences what we write about. We haven't set out to be a socially conscious band."

The digital age has transformed the way bands connect with audiences. Varun acknowledges the pressure it brings. "Social media is a double-edged sword. It's something you have to deal with, like it or not. But as long as that pressure doesn't force us to make music we're unhappy with, I think it's okay," he says.

Into the digital world

Jishnu concurs with Varun. "We weren't around when social media exploded, so it's new territory for us. We're learning the ropes to make using social media a positive experience, something that doesn't compromise the music itself. It's about finding the right bridge to connect with listeners."

"But ultimately," he says, "The real connection comes from performing live and knowing our music has meaning in people's lives."

Sounds of change Swarathma band. members SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

> ***Our music isn't a conscious social commentary. The world around us naturally influences what we write about.***
>
> **VARUN MURALI**
> Swarathma guitarist

Down the rabbit hole

Playboy Hospitality, known for night clubs, opens its first gastrobar in Bengaluru, offering South Indian flavours and Asian twists

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"Follow the rabbit" reads an enigmatic neon sign as I walk into the latest entrant in Koramangala's nightlife circuit, Bunny Bar. Licensed under Playboy Hospitality, a brand which is known for its nightclubs the world over, this is a gastropub-style offering with a strong focus on food and cocktails. This is the first Bunny Bar in India, as well as the world.

The biggest draw for Bunny Bar is the brand name. The first Playboy Club was opened in Chicago in 1960 under the media and lifestyle company founded by Hugh Hefner and the iconic bowtie wearing bunny is now one of the most recognisable logos in the world. In the Koramangala outlet, managed by Jay Jay & Kwality Restaurants, one can spot the bunny motif on every floor.

The bar is spread over four floors and 14,000 square feet. It offers both indoor as well as an open rooftop seating area, which overlooks the bustling street.

We are welcomed with house special Kerala spiced plantain chips: Long slices of plantains dusted with a spicy *masala*, and served with a salsa and sour cream. The seaweed chips are innovative, featuring deep fried nori sheets topped with a fresh mango salsa.

When it comes to cocktails, the Bunny Twists section pays homage to bartenders who have created famous cocktails. For instance, British barman Dick Bradsell invented the Espresso martini in the late 1980s at Fred's Club in London. At Bunny Bar you can order the Unespresso martini, the classic with a twist of ginger vanilla. They also offer a selection of beer on tap, from brands such as Geist and Toit.

I opt for one of their signatures, a drink called Rhapsody. Made with gin and mint, and topped with a frothy mint foam, the drink is light and refreshing. Even though the flavours were balanced, the foamy texture did not quite hit the right spot. If you also like Bloody Marys for their spice, try the Tomarilo Mary, which uses tequila, king chilli, celery oil and the tomatillo fruit.

For appetisers, expect Italian, Asian and *kebabs* with a healthy dose of South Indian options. The Andhra chili chicken taco uses the traditional Andhra dish and served atop a coin *parotta* inspired taco. Also try the deep fried Arancini-esque bites, made of creamy risotto and earthy porcini mushrooms.

The menu also has many North Indian classics, Asian bowls and burgers on offer. Special mention needs to be made of their *dal* burrata. Black *dal* is cooked for 24 hours and instead of cream, it is topped with a ball of fresh burrata.

For dessert, there is tomato *halwa*, which is sweet and rich. It is topped with a *kulfi* and *rabri*, which bring the dish together.

Cost for two ₹1,000. At Koramangala. For details, call 9900118792

Funny bunny The intriguing tomato halwa. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

A new avatar Repurposed frames showcase artwork by college students. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

How Bengaluru's Sampige Foundation is restoring worn out images of deities through its MurthyShodhane initiative

Reviving the divine

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In January this year, an Instagram reel of a rare 50-year-old picture of Laxmana's wife, Urmila, went viral with over 3.2 million views. The photograph had been handed over to the team at Sampige Foundation that restores or discards old images of deities in a respectful manner. Devotional management researcher, Sandeep Kempegowda was restoring the image.

"The hand-drawn artwork of Urmila's appearance in the *Rama Pattabhisheka* (Rama's coronation) is rare. It's a gem because such depictions of Urmila are few in artworks," says co-founder Vignesh M. Following the reel, the organisation's MurthyShodhane initiative took off. "Our aim is to respectfully dispose off these images through the flames of a *shanti homa*, while repurposing their frames with artwork by students of school and colleges," he says of the initiative launched in partnership with zero-waste juice bar Eat Raja and community initiative Malleswaram Social.

Having conducted close to three phases of the drive, Vignesh, 26, explains how the team goes about executing the project. "We either restore abandoned divine images and display them in public spaces, or people leave such artefacts and photos that they possess for sustainable repurposing," he says. In the case of the latter, the team then separates the photos from their frames and conducts a *shanti homa*. But why not restore all these images?

Kiran Yadav, co-founder, says for many restoration is not a viable option.

"Due to cultural beliefs surrounding these artefacts, individuals often shy away from using restored items, fearing potential mishaps or negative consequences. Therefore, we carefully disassemble or separate these artefacts, and the *homa* ensures they are not subjected to disrespect or misuse," explains Kiran, who works at an EV start-up by day.

As for the frames, they are repurposed to showcase artwork by students from city-based colleges, and are then displayed in exhibitions held at previously littered spots, now transformed into art spaces. One such space is an area in Malleswaram which was previously littered and used as a public urinal.

Till date, the team has received over 500 items, including photos, souvenirs, and artefacts, with nearly 1,000 photos recovered from Bengaluru and nearby areas. As for the rare image of Urmila, once restored, "we might probably donate it to a museum or an art space that is capable of handling and displaying such rare artworks," concludes Vignesh.

To volunteer or donate images, artefacts, call 7760690264

STEPOUT

Dough-re-mi

This one is for those with a sweet tooth. Mad Over Donuts celebrates Doughnut Day with an offer where you can pick up any doughnut for ₹59.

The range on offer includes a variety of flavours as well as their 100% eggless and freshly-topped doughnuts range.

On till June 7 across all Mad Over Donuts' outlets.

Afternoon delight

Kling brewery has introduced a new lunch combination, which will be available from Monday to Friday, noon to 3pm. The menu inludes dishes from North India, Thai cuisine and Continental fare to transform your midday meal into a culinary celebration.

This lunch menu is available at Kling in Ashok Nagar.

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಉತ್ಸವ
Bengaluru Utsava
Grand Flea Market
STARTS TODAY
Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath
Kumara Krupa Road, Bengaluru
Date: 31st May 2024
to
9th June 2024
Timing: 11:00 AM - 7:00 PM
(Art, Craft, Handlooms & Lifestyle Exhibition)
Art & Craft | Handicraft | Clothing
Fashion Accessories | Home Decor & More
FOOD
(10 Days Exhibition)
100+ Stalls
Entry Free!
Home Decors | Handmade Paintings | Ceramic Pots |Handlooms & Handicrafts |
Curtains | Carpets | Mats | Bags | Khadi Kurtas | Silks Saree | Sarees | Designer Kurtis | Bandhani
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Activists demand arrest of Prajwal and his family members who may influence probe

People associated with various groups marched in Hassan carrying posters with slogans appealing to sexual abuse survivors to be strong and to not feel guilty; they also urged politicians not to play with the dignity of women for political gains

The Hindu Bureau
HASSAN

Rallying for a cause: Members of various civil society groups, including those working for the cause of women, labourers, farmers, Dalits, and sexual minorities, took part in a protest march in Hassan on Thursday. PRAKASH HASSAN

The former MP Subhashini Ali, who fought for justice in the Bilkis Bano case, has demanded that the Karnataka government arrest Prajwal Revanna, accused of sexually abusing many women and currently facing investigation, as well as his family members who had a role in related crimes.

Addressing a protest rally in Hassan on Thursday, a day ahead of Mr. Prajwal Revanna's return to India after remaining absconding for over a month abroad, Ms. Ali said, "If the family members of the accused are free, they will make use of their influence, power, and money to protect the accused." The rally was held after civil society groups from across the State, including those working for the cause of women, labourers, farmers, Dalits, and sexual minorities, marched with the slogan 'Namma nadige Hassanada kadege' (our march is towards Hassan).

Along the march, hundreds of activists raised slogans demanding the arrest of Prajwal Revanna, who has been facing charges of sexual abuse, as well as justice for survivors of the alleged sexual abuse. They carried posters with slogans appealing to survivors to be strong and to not feel guilty. Another poster appealed to politicians not to play with the dignity of women for their political gains.

With survivors

Ms. Ali said all the activists would stand with the survivors. "You need not feel ashamed. We are here to uphold women's dignity," she said. Ms. Ali said the State government should stand with the survivors, ensure their safety, and provide them relief.

Further, referring to BJP leaders' statement that the last 10-year rule was only a trailer and the true picture would be in the next term, Ms. Ali said, "People already know what the trailer was in the Brij Bhushan case. And you came here to seek votes in favour of a rape accused. If these were the trailers, what would be the true picture?"

Samaj Parivartan Samudaya founder S.R. Hiremath called the protest "a historic" one to uphold the dignity of women. Dalit Sangharsha Samiti (Ambedkarwada) leader Mavalli Shankar appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to choose Hassan for *mounavrata* instead of Vivekananda rock at Kanyakumari "for failing to stop Prajwal Revanna".

K. Neela, leader of Janavadi Sanghatane, alleged that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his party tried to take political mileage over the crimes committed by Mr. Prajwal Revanna. Advocate S. Balan urged the State government to grant compensation of ₹1 crore each to all survivors of the crime. "As [Congress leader] Rahul Gandhi stated that 400 women were raped, the State government should file 400 FIRs and conduct the investigation," he said.

'Circulation of clips'

Writer Roopa Hassan, who presided over the public meeting, urged the State government to stop the circulation of objectionable videos and arrest those involved in circulating them. She said the videos were still being released. "Why has the government not been able to stop it?" she sought to know.

The protest meeting ended with a dharna. As none of the officials representing the district administration visited the meeting venue to receive the memorandum, the protesters staged a dharna on the road in front of the Deputy Commissioner's office.

DKS: *Yaga* performed in Kerala temple 'to destroy Cong. govt.'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister and KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar on Thursday claimed that "some people" have been conducting what he called "Shatru Bhairavi Yaga" at a temple in Kerala against him and Chief Minister Siddaramaiah "to destroy the Congress government" in the State.

Mr. Shivakumar told reporters at his residence that the *yaga* was conducted at Sri Rajarajeshwari temple in Kerala. "I am aware of who has done the *yaga*, who all participated and who is behind it". He said it was done by political opponents, without directly naming anyone, and said there was animal sacrifice involved too.

During the last one month, Mr. Shivakumar and Janata Dal (Secular) leader and former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy have been at loggerheads and have indulged in verbal duels on several occasions following the alleged sexual abuse case against Hassan MP Prajwal Revanna.

Prajwal case: Two accused of circulating videos get bail

They are said to be associates of the former BJP MLA Preetham Gowda

The Hindu Bureau
HASSAN

Two persons who were arrested on the charge of circulating objectionable content related to the Prajwal Revanna case through pen drives have got bail from a Hassan court.

The third additional district and session judge granted the bail to Chethan and Likhit Gowda on Thursday. They were arrested on May 12. The accused, said to be associates of the former BJP MLA Preetham Gowda, allegedly made the objectionable content viral through pen drives and messaging application on mobile phone.

Weight of blotter paper, ingested with psychotropic substance, has to be considered as part of seized drug: HC

FROM THE COURT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Weight of the blotter paper, which is a carrier of psychotropic substance such as LSD (lysergic acid diethylamide), is also required to be taken into consideration for weighing the quantity of the seized offending drug, the High Court of Karnataka has said.

"Blotter paper is a neutral substance and carrier material for the psychotropic substance LSD. These blotter papers are ingested with LSD, and therefore, it forms an integral part of the ingestion by the user of the same. It [blotter paper] is also a medium of consumption of the drug...," the court said.

Justice S. Vishwajith Shetty made these observations while rejecting a petition filed by Kalam Narendra of Bengaluru.

Neutral substance

Pointing out that the apex court has held that the weight of neutral substances is also required to be taken into consideration for the purpose of weighing the quantity of the offending drug, the High Court said that the weight of blotter paper has to be considered as it a neutral substance.

Stringent provision

The petitioner had questioned the Narcotics Control Bureau's (NCB) action of invoking stringent provision Section 22(c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985, for allegedly possessing LSD in 'commercial quantity'. It was argued on the petitioner's behalf that 10 strips of LSD possessed by him would be less than 'commercial quantity' in terms of the NDPS Act if the weight of the blotter paper is ascertained and excluded from the weight of the LSD.

"If the weight of the offending drug along with the blotter paper is considered, the same totally weighs 0.11 gram, which is a commercial quantity. Therefore, the argument of senior counsel that each blotter paper may contain 30 to 50 micrograms of psychotropic substance and therefore, the seized LSD is of small quantity [up to 2,000 micrograms] is liable to be rejected," the court observed.

Background of case

The NCB, acting on credible information, had intercepted a parcel received at the Foreign Post office in Bengaluru during January this year and found 10 strips of LSD and 34.38 grams of ganja in it. The parcel was to be delivered to one Pandu at his residential address on Old Madras Road.

Later, the NCB sleuths prepared a dummy parcel in the name of the intended receiver of the intercepted parcel and arranged for its delivery to Pandu through the postman. The petitioner, who opened the door, acknowledged that he was Pandu and collected the dummy drug parcel. At this stage, the NCB apprehended him.

It was argued on the petitioner's behalf that he had secured the psychotropic substance only for his self-consumption and hence only less stringent provisions of the NDPS Act were applicable as the seized LSD is of "small quantity" and not "commercial quantity" to attract stringent provisions.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client – Ramamani K represents that her father Late R Krishnan had purchased the schedule A property from RMC Traders, rep. by its partners, vide Sale Deed dated 30-01-1967 bearing document no. 244/1967, book 1, volume 426, pages 463 to 470, registered on 31-01-1967 in the office of sub registrar, T Nagar, Chennai. Subsequent to the death of Krishnan on 24-03-1978, his wife Late Yashoda constructed residential apartments on the schedule A property and sold the same to purchaser/s. Further, my client represents that she has lost the aforesaid ORIGINAL SALE DEED (mother deed) of schedule A property on 18-05-2024 at Ullal Main Road, Bangalore and has lodged a Police Complaint on 18-05-2024, vide Lost Report No.1057561/2024. If anybody finds it, return the same to the below address.

If any person/s or financial institutions have any objections claims, right, title or interest over the schedule A property, may file their objections with the undersigned along with the documentary proof within **15 days** from the date of publication of this notice.

SCHEDULE A PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of Vacant Land bearing Plot No.43 in "SATHYA MOORTHY STREET-DEVARAJ NAGAR", Saligramam, Chennai 600093, measuring to an extent of 2380 sq feet comprised in Old Survey No.71, then Survey No.71/1A3, Patta Extract No.Tr/2044/01-02 TR dated 01-01-2015, T.S. No.5, Block No.26, situated at "SALIGRAMAM VILLAGE", Egmore-Nungambakkam Taluk, now Mambalam Taluk, Chennai District and bounded on :
North by : 30 feet wide Sathyamoorthy Street ; South by : Plot Nos.14 and 13
East by : Plot No.42; West by : Plot No.44
In all total extent measuring 2380 sq feet of vacant land and situated within the Registration District of SOUTH CHENNAI and the Sub-registrar office at VIRUGAMBAKKAM.

Renuka R. Desai, Rohit Desai,
Advocates, **Manu Law Chambers,**
No. 948/1, 2nd Main, 4th Block,
Rajajinagar, Bengaluru 560 010.
Place : Bengaluru, Dated : 30.05.2024

THE FEDERAL BANK LIMITED
Regd. Office: Aluva, Kerala.
ZONAL OFFICE: 1st Floor, Halcyon Complex, No.9, St Marks Road, Bangalore-560 001.
e-mail:bgrr-cpc@federalbank.co.in Ph:080-22074610//24/25

BGRR/Online Auction/2024-25 **PUBLIC NOTICE GOLD AUCTION** 30/05/2024

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and the account holders in particular that e-auction of the pledged gold ornaments in the below mentioned account/s will be conducted by Federal Bank Ltd, on 18.06.2024 through online portal, https://gold.samil.in interested buyers may log on to the auction portal or contact the Bank at contact@federalbank.co.in for further information. In case e-auction is not materialised for any reason on the date mentioned above, with respect any or all items of the of the pledged ornaments, Bank shall be conducting private sale of the items on any susequent date/s without further notise.

Br.Bangalore/Banaswadi:-14716500001859,14716500002501,14716800038411,14716800050952,14716800051398.
Br. Bangalore/Jalahalli :- 15826100622480,15826200076009,15826800030513,15826800043037.
Br. Bangalore/Basavanagudi :- 13186800019400,13186800019681. **Br. Shimoga:-** 15906800012818.
Br.Bng/HSR Layout:- 17696800045524,17696800053056,17696800054773,17696800055838,17696800056208, 17696800056471,17696800058352,17696800060093,17696800060416,17696800062503,17696800078640.
Br.Bng/J P Nagar:-18276800063337,18276800064749,18276800065746,18276800067429,18276800082899, 18276800083855,18276800083863,18276800084689,18276800086049,18276800086817,18276800088144, 18276800089134,18276800091635,18276800103745,18276800106672,18276800106722.
Br. Bangalore/Krishnarajapuram :- 15616800014561,15616800016533,15616800020543.
Br. Bangalore/Rajajinagar :- 13346800052492,13346800052849,13346800053540,13346800056881.
Br. Bangalore / R T Nagar :- 14726100216500,14726100216534,14726800038287,14726800039491, 14726800040606,14726800040747,14726800041737. **Br. Bangalore/Marathahalli :-** 14546800006666.
Br. Bangalore/Vijayanagar :- 16436800058180,16436800074815,16436800076950,16436800077040.
Br. Bangalore/Visweswaraya layout:- 21676800004832,21676800005805,21676800006464,21676800006498, 21676800006712,21676800007140,21676800007322,21676800007363,21676800007504,21676800007546,21676800007587, 21676800007595,21676800007645,21676800007652,21676800007843,21676800007918,21676800007926,21676800007975, 21676800007983,21676800008213,21676800008320,21676800008346,21676800008643,21676800008650,21676800008676, 21676800009302,21676800009666. **Br. Mysore/Jayalakshmipuram :-** 16896800019708,16896800021019.
Br. Bangalore/St. Marks Road:- 11046800000705. **Br. Bangalore/Vignan Nagar :-**16296800003275.
Br.Bangalore/Kodathi Ghate:- 21716800001931. **Br. Bng / Sadashiva Nagar :-** 21986800014750.
Br. Mysore :- 12816800016730,12816800017878,12816800017027. **Br. Hassan :-** 13546800014992, 13546800015080,13546800016146,13546800016625,13546800017680,13546800020916,13546800021120.
Br. Bangalore / Thirumalashettyhalli :- 22626800001048.
Br. Bangalore / Wipro Park Koramangala :- 21996800014718,21996800019063.

Bangalore 30-05-2024 For The Federal Bank Ltd Senior Vice President & Zonal Head

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our client intends to purchase the property described in the Schedule hereunder from its present owner. Any person/s, firms, societies, institutions (corporate or otherwise) claiming to have any right, title, interest, benefit, claim or demand in, or to, the Schedule Property and/or any part thereof, by way of sale, agreement, exchange, gift, grant, lease, tenancy, license, assignment, mortgage, charge, lien, trust, family arrangement/ settlement, encumbrance, inheritance, bequest, easement, possession, maintenance, development rights, order / decree /judgment of any Court / Statutory Authority, agreement, understanding or otherwise howsoever, to the Schedule Property is required to intimate the same in writing together with true copies of all documentary proof in support thereof, to the undersigned, at the address given below, within 7 (Seven) days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which, our client shall proceed ahead to purchase the Schedule Property and no further claims in respect of the Schedule Property would be considered any time thereafter.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of industrially converted land bearing Survey No. 27 measuring 25,181.77 square meters, converted vide conversion orders bearing : Official Memorandum dated 22.03.1996, bearing No. BDIS.ALN (DHO) SR.23/1995-96; Official Memorandum dated 02.05.2005, bearing No. ALN. (DHO) SR.84/2004-05; and Official Memorandum dated 25.02.2015, bearing No. ALN (DO KA).SR.60/2013-14, along with three storey (Ground, 1 & 2 Floors) RCC building of about 2,232.34 square meters built-up area and the industrial building and other structures admeasuring about 9,344.45 square meters of built-up area, situated at Thammasettihalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bangalore Rural District. Bounded on:
East by : Survey No. 28
West by : Shivapura Boundary
North by : Road from Doddaballapura to Devanahalli
South by : Land bearing Survey No. 34.

Mr. S T Prashantha Kumar,
Senior Partner,
Fox Mandal & Associates LLP,
Solicitors & Advocates,
FM House, 6/12, Primrose Road,
Bangalore – 560025, Karnataka, India
Phone : +91 80 2559 5911

Government of Karnataka
RURAL DRINKING WATER SUPPLY & SANITAION DEPARTEMENT, DIVISION, CHITRADURGA .
Phone No.: 08194-234488 e-mail: eerdwsd.chd@gmail.com

Tender Notification No: EE/RDWS&SD/CTA/JJM&SBM /Tender/ 130/2024-25 Date: 28.05.2024

Short Term Tender Notification
Through e-procurement

Tender has been invited for the following work Under JJM & Swacha Bharath Mission Schemes in Single and Two cover system throughe-procurement. Eligible tenders may obtain the details and tender documents and submitted the filled tender online through website view.http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. Hosadurga Taluk 06 Works Rs. 125.98 Lakhs, Hiriyur Taluk 05 Works Rs. 102.55 Lakhs, Challakere Taluk 02 Works Rs. 62.77 Lakhs and Holalkere Taluk 01 Works Rs. 11.18 Lakhs Last Date for Receipt of Bids Dt: 04.06.2024 and Technical Bid Opening 06.06.2024 For Further details Office of Executive Engineer and also through e-port web site http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.

DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/ 09/2024-25
Sd/- Executive Engineer,
R.D.W.S. & S. Division, Chitradurga

CCB raids on 'illegal immigrants' in Bengaluru

Raids were conducted at six places in the city. As many as 25 Bangladeshi nationals were found to be staying illegally

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Officials of the Central Crime Branch (CCB) on Thursday conducted raids at six places across the city and allegedly found 25 Bangladeshi nationals staying here illegally. The raids were carried out at Ramamurthynagar, Marathahalli, Bellandur, Varthur, and Hebbagodi where they were living in makeshift houses and were involved in garbage collection and segregation or working as manual labourers and domestic help.

The police detained five of the immigrants and three of them are allegedly facing criminal charges. According to the police, two of the accused have been arrested in a robbery case. The officials searched their sheds and seized documents and mobile phones.

Officials said five alleged illegal immigrants fled and efforts were on to track them down.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

REMEMBRANCE

Shobha Warrier
31.05.1964 - 16.09.2022
Fondly Remembered on Her *60th Birthday*
Rugmini Warrier (Mother)
KR Warrier (Husband 9444454715)
Aparna Warrier (Daughter)
Sudha Warrier (Sister 9731218409)

IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES
To dedicate a space in this section, Please contact:
Bengaluru: 98455 29981, 080 - 22071826
Hubballi: 0836 - 2338600
Mangaluru: 0824 - 2417575, from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
For Placing Advertisements Online log on to : www.thehinduads.com
DONATE EYES - GIFT SIGHT

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike
Office of the Executive Engineer (QA/QC) Division, Bommanahalli Zone, Room No.101, Annex-3 Building, BBMP N.R. Square, Bengaluru-02.
No. EE(QA/QC)/Bommanahalli/Tend/03/2024-25 Date: 30.05.2024

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK Kpp Portal)

The Executive Engineer, Bommanahalli Zone, BBMP Bengaluru Quality Assurance/Quality Control Division invites request for Proposal from interested persons/firms those **who have done similar type of work for Consultancy Services for Project Management including Supervision, Quality Control (PMC) for** the below works.

Sl. No.	Name of the work	EMD (Amount in ₹.)
1.	Providing PMC Services including Supervision, Quality control for the "Improvements to Roads and drains at Raghu Ram Reddy Layout, Jayappa Layout, AECS Layout, Vastu Layout, Park View Layout, GSS Layout, ConCorde Layout, Muneshwara Layout and Surrounding area in Ward No. 191, Singasandra Kudlu Limits."	12,500/-

Calendar of Events: (1) Tender document may be downloaded through Kpp portal from: **04.06.2024, (2)** Pre-bid meeting: **10.06.2024 at 4:00 p.m. (3)** Last Date & Time for receipt of Tenders: **15.06.2024 up to 4:00 p.m. (4)** Opening of Technical Bid: **18.06.2024 at 11:30 a.m.** Further particulars can be obtained from the above office during working hours on working days or from **website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer (QA/QC) Division, Bommanahalli Zone, BBMP.

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of Health Officer(East), 9th Floor, P.U. Building, M.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 001.
No.: HO(East)/PR/N-2040(1-6)/2024-25 Date:30.05.2024

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
(Through GOK KPP Portal only)

Health Officer (East), invites Request for Proposal from eligible bidders for **Providing Manpower to Mosquito Control Activities in 16 Wards of East Zone - Six Ranges (Hebbal, Pulikeshinagar, Shivajinagar, Sarvagnanagar, Shanthinagar, C.V. Raman Nagar) on out source basis.**

1	RFP Reference No.	Indexed Number as per Portal for Range- Ward wise.
2	Date of Commencement of Download of RFP Document from KPP Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in	From 31.05.2024 at 4.00 p.m.
3	Last date and time for uploading Online Queries in KPP Portal	Upto 10.06.2024
4	Date and Time of Pre-bid Meeting	12.06.2024 at 11.00 am.
5	Last date and time for uploading of RFP in KPP Portal	15.06.2024 Upto 5.00 p.m.
6	Date and time for Opening of RFP Applications in KPP Portal	18.06.2024

Note : Bidder has to quote service charges per month, if bidders quote service charges less than one percent, then those financial offers will be rejected. Further details can be had from KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Health Officer(East).

Why amateur birders matter to ornithology

Author and birder Aasheesh Pittie says amateur birders and citizen scientists should be taught how to record natural history in a proper form

Preeti Zachariah
BENGALURU

Aasheesh Pittie says birdwatching is not very unlike hunting, except that nothing is killed. "You track... you want to follow the bird... see it," he says about this activity that he has pursued for nearly fifty years. Pittie, the editor of the ornithological journal *Indian Birds*, author of many classic reference books about birds and most recently, a collection of bird essays titled *The Living Air: Pleasures of Birds and Birdwatching*, was speaking at an event organised by the Archives of the National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS).

At the event titled *A Century of Watching Indian Birds*, Pittie, who was in conversation with ecologist Suhel Quader, delved into various aspects of birding: the history of ornithology in India, some key figures who played a role in the evolution of the field such as Sálim Ali, Jamal Ara and Zafar Futehally, how social media influences birdwatching and the role of citizen science in conservation. He also offered insights into his own birding journey.

Suhel Quader and Aasheesh Pittie in conversation at the Archives at NCBS. RAVI KUMAR BOYAPATI

Pioneers of early 1900s

While the British were the first to document and collect Indian birds, by the first quarter of the 1900s, the focus had shifted to Sálim Ali. Ali's collections of bird specimens, which went to the royal families in various erstwhile princely states in India and also the British Museum in London, were also often studied by Hugh Whistler, a British police officer and ornithologist who served in India between 1909 and 1926. "Sálim Ali's behavioural notes and Hugh Whistler's very detailed taxonomic notes comprised the literature of that period," says Pittie.

Whistler was also involved in another important event in the history of Indian ornithology: the Vernay Scientific Survey of Eastern Ghats. A report based on the survey was published in the *Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society* (JBNHS), in 1932."Ornithology wasn't the popular birding, photography thing that it is today," he says. "It was individual-based, institution-based. It was based on the passion of a person who couldn't be in the field but had the money to support some activity that people did."

The Vernay survey too was the outcome of a generous endowment of an English gentleman called A.S. Vernay. "The collection was sent to the British Museum," he says, adding that the BNHS paper, though technical, is eminently readable for what it has to say about "the art of observation, the art of writing, the art of synthesis of knowledge that comes and how new knowledge is married to that." Quader and Pittie also spoke about how, through much of the early history of ornithology, the information gathered was typically from a dead specimen. "They didn't have field guides which were good enough, optics that were good enough and they didn't have identification skills which had developed enough to identify a bird from far away," says Pittie, adding that multiple birds were shot to create collections and garner information about a species. "Most of the birds that they spoke about, wrote about were birds in the hand that were shot in the field. That was how birding was studied at that time."

Sálim Ali

Red-billed leiothrix. SUBHADRA DEVI

Birding in the 1980s

Pittie's own journey as a birder began in the 1970s and 1980s when he was still in school. Two incidents appear to have catalysed his initiation into birding. A friend's father, who also happened to be related to Ali, came to Pittie's school, spoke to the students about birds, and offered to take them birding with him.

"I said, yes, let's go and I liked it," he says, admitting that he was mostly into big mammals back then and used to collect the World Wildlife Fund's large posters of animals like leopard cubs and lion cubs. The back of these posters, he recalls, had a little blurb explaining what the organisation was about. "I wrote to them and subscribed to their newsletter, where I read about Salim Ali and the *Newsletter for Birdwatchers*," says Pittie. who went on to become a member of the BNHS.

Another incident that played a role in developing this lifelong interest in birds was when Futehally took the trouble to respond to a letter that Pittie had sent him. "The fact that this boy had written to someone in the pantheon of bird watchers in India and this man had taken the trouble to reply," he says. "I just wanted to go ahead."

Once he was bitten by the birding bug, Pittie spent his spare time lugging around his father's old heavy binoculars and birding at a small pond in Banjara Hills, a stone's throw away from where he then lived. "The Dakhni landscape is full of boulders which had hollow pits where water collected, a little patch of green," he says. One of his most vivid memories of the time spent birdwatching there was the sight of the red munia also known as the strawberry finch. Seeing that was almost like crossing a rubicon in your life, he says, with a laugh.

But when Pittie got into birding, information about birds was still fairly scant. "All we had was Sálim Ali's *The Book of Indian Birds* which we all had a copy of. And those whoever could afford it had his handbook, a huge 10-volume work." There was also the *Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society* and the *Newsletter for Birdwatchers*, started by Futehally. "Besides this, there wasn't any other literature available to us. Also, there was no internet or birdwatchers close to us who we could relate to, talk to or exchange notes with."

Fiery-throated hummingbird. M.N. JAYKUMAR

Purple Sunbird SASWAT MISHRA

Greater coucal. ALBIN JACOB

Power of citizen science

Interest in birding has grown considerably since then. In 2004, a journal called *Indian Birds* came into existence. "We decided we needed a new journal in India. Explaining the rationale behind starting the bi-monthly journal." Pittie says that science should be brought to a reader who is a non-scientist in a language that the person can understand. He adds that Futehally and ornithologist V. Santharam were instrumental in its creation. The journal, now also available online, has grown over the years and played a significant role in creating a community of birders.

Pittie and Quader also discuss amateur birders' role in surveying and documenting various species of birds. Ornithology, especially in the subcontinent, is still the domain of amateurs, points out Pittie."Academic ornithology came very late, most of the people who've written the major books that we still refer to were not ornithologists," he says. "I don't think ornithologists have made a dent into what the amateurs have contributed over 100 years."

He also highlights the role of the internet, particularly social media, in the rapid growth of birding as a hobby. "Social media has been a game changer in birding," says Pittie. "The whole world is on your phone... people can buy cameras... travel is more accessible, easier, cheaper. It is a good thing for ornithology and birding," he says.

Road ahead

While Pittie is happy with the increase in the number of people interested in birding, he feels that for the field of ornithology to progress, amateur birders and citizen scientists should be taught how to record natural history in a proper form. "I think institutions should be using amateur groups of people to direct the way natural history is recorded in India, so that it can be used for the future."

Canines at Cubbon: Bengaluru's favourite dog park

The dog park at Cubbon Park is one of the few places in the city where they can spend time in public without a leash

Abhilekh Baruah
Vibha Rajeev
BENGALURU

Like many other Bengalureans, Arpit Pratap Singh, an 11th-grade student, likes spending his Sundays at Cubbon Park. This public green space doesn't just provide entertainment and leisure for Arpit and his parents; it is his dog, Leo's, favourite Sunday haunt too.

Every weekend, the dog park in Cubbon plays host to many dogs like Leo, one of the few places where pets can run leashless in the city. One of the largest free dog parks in the country,
Cubbon Dog Park, initially opened for visitors only on Sundays between 8.30 a.m. and 12.30 p.m. However, at present, the dog park is also allowed to be used during the week.

Spread over 1.1 acres, this green expanse, a favourite spot for dogs, dog owners and dog lovers alike, is run by volunteers from The Knights of Cubbon Bark (a part of Cubbon Park Canines) & The C.J. Memorial Trust.

Every weekend, the dog park plays host to many dogs. VIBHA RAJEEV

Supported by the Horticulture Department, this fenced region invites opportunities to socialise, and interact with pets and is a prominent part of the weekend routines of many Bengalureans.

Rukthi, an avid dog lover, is one of those regularly visiting the dog park with her friend. "I just came here randomly, and then I saw a lot of dogs," says the accounts manager, reflecting on an experience where she met a couple with a cat and a dog and was intrigued by how they handled both.

Spending time in the park, she adds, is a stress buster after a long and busy week.

Pros and cons

In a city where animal lovers and pet owners are frequently targeted, the fact that such a public space exists is very welcoming. Harish, a regular at the park who recently moved to Bengaluru, agrees to that . "There are certain restrictions for dogs in apartments," he says, recalling how his dog Zoro was recently kicked by someone when he brushed against that person.

Other pet owners agree that the park is well-laid-out and one of the best in the city for dogs. But there is still some scope for improvement as Sai Sathiyan, who works at an IT company and regularly visits the park with her dog and daughter, points out. For instance, certain parts of the park are uneven especially when it rains, making it inconvenient for them. She also states that stray dogs were aggressive towards her pet, the reason why she started carrying a stick to the park.

In a conversation with *The Hindu*, Priya Chetty Rajagopal, the founder and trustee of C.J. Memorial Trust, highlighted the fight to keep the park alive. "For the last 8 years, we fought for pets to be allowed at Cubbon Park. The last petition that we raised had 45,000 signatures," she added. Explaining the crucial role played by the volunteers, she explained how their absence would lead to a complete shutdown of the park. "The fact that a one-acre area is available for the dog park is something we are massively grateful for, and we are working very closely with the horticulture department, who support us", she added.

PETS MUST BE LEASHED COMPULSORY
IF THEY POOP YOU SCOOP
OWNERS SHOULD SCOOP THEIR PET DOGS POOP
ENTRY OF PET DOGS INTO THE LAWN AREA IS PROHIBITED
The dog park rules.

Keeping to rules

Having this privilege, however, does come with certain responsibilities as Chetty points out. For starters, it is very important to leash your dog anytime you venture outside the area designated specifically for dogs. "For the first time in two months, we had two incidents of biting," she recalls, suggesting the horticulture department must put a fine on violating rules.

As a responsible dog parent, Sai Sathiyan mirrors this viewpoint, agreeing that there are certain rules and responsibilities that dog owners must follow, "If they poop, we must clean it, and it is necessary to keep the dog on leash except in the dog park". She also points out how parents are sensitising their children on how to behave with others' pets, "I see some parents teaching their children to ask permission before petting a dog, which is a thing even adults should learn."

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO MAY 31, 1974

Family Planning: World Bank Team to Visit State

Bangalore, May 30: A team of World Bank experts on family planning would be visiting Karnataka next month to review the progress of the India population project started in April 1973 said Mr. A. Chandrasekhar, Additional Secretary, Union Ministry of Health and Family Planning here today.

He said that the India population project started in the States of Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh had so far made an attempt to provide the infrastructure for taking up model family planning programmes and to grapple with the problems facing the national family programme.

Two Rosewood Veneer Plants to be Set Up

Bangalore, May 30. The Karnataka Forest Industries Corporation would set up within the next four months two rose wood veneer plants in North Kanara and Mysore districts with Japanese collaboration, Mr. K.H. Patil, Forest Minister told the Legislative Council today.

He was replying to the debate on the Karnataka Forest Amendment Bill, 1974, which was passed. Karnataka accounted for about 70 per cent of rosewood in the country. Rosewood is widely used abroad for a variety of purposes.

Mr. Patil assured the House that the Government would ensure reasonable prices for cultivators of rosewood. There was also scope for appeal. He said the forest area in the State was less than 14 per cent which again was lower than the all-India average.

Karnataka InFocus

THE HINDU

IN SHORT

Learning about Yakshagana

The annual Karunbithil Shibira at Nidle also introduces Yakshagana music to the participants. It is to make the students of music from outside Karnataka familiar with Yakshagana. In this year's camp, senior Yakshagana bhagavatha Dinesh Ammannaya, accompanied by artistes Chaitanya Krishna Padyana and Shreyas Palande participated.

Ganji is liked by all at the Shibira

Among the varieties of local food served at the Shibira, the rice porridge called ganji is liked by all. It is served with ghee and chutni. Music fans Prabhachandra Mayya and Venkatesh Mayya of Mangaluru, who sponsor the food, said that there are repeated demand by participants for it as the porridge is prepared with a select variety of rice.

Other music camps inspired by Shibira

Inspired by the Karunbithil Shibira, Swaralaya Sadhana Foundation and Kala Shale of Mangaluru have been organising a one-day Swara Sankranti Utsava which is a festival of Carnatic music concerts in Mangaluru since past seven years. In addition, the Foundation organises Swaralaya Sadhana Camp, which is also is an event of workshop-cum-concert.

Carnatic music festivals

Sangeetha Parishat and Mani Krishnaswami Academy of Mangaluru have been organising annual Carnatic music concert festivals in Mangaluru for long. If Sangeetha Parishat is more than three decades old organisation, the Academy is about two decades old. They have been nurturing Carnatic music of Mangaluru by providing platform for budding artistes.

Deputy Commissioner wants to revisit

Deputy Commissioner of Dakshina Kannada M.P. Mullai Muhilan, who sat through the violin concert by Charumathi Raghuraman accompanied by her husband Anantha R. Krishnan on the mridanga, at this year's Karunbithil Shibira on May 16, said, "I sincerely wish I should be here next year too." Mangaluru Mayor Sudheer Shetty Kannur also made it to the camp.

Nurturing Carnatic music in the calm environs of Nidle village near Dharmasthala

Karunbithil Shibira, a residential workshop on Carnatic music and concerts, was held at the ancestral house of senior violinist Vidwan Vittal Ramamurthy recently

A scene from the 'Karunbithil Shibira' (Karunbithil residential camp) at Nidle. H.S. MANJUNATH

Participants at the 'Karunbithil Shibira.' H.S. MANJUNATH

Vidwan Vittal Ramamurthy teaching how to hold the violin to a three-year child. H.S. MANJUNATH

Senior violinist Vidwan Vittal Ramamurthy teaching at the 'Karunbithil Shibira'. H.S. MANJUNATH

Raviprasad Kamila
MANGALURU

In his late 70s and standing under the *chappara* (pandal), surrounded by lush greenery, Udupi Gopalakrishna, a music teacher, is teaching students the nuances of singing.

The class was part of the 24th annual edition of Karunbithil Shibira (Karunbithil camp), a residential workshops on Carnatic music and concerts, at the ancestral house of internationally acclaimed senior violinist Vidwan Vittal Ramamurthy in the calm Nidle village, near Dharmasthala, held for five-days recently (from May 15 to May 19, 2024).

Heading to silver jubilee

This residential, free music camp, which has been attracting people from far and wide for over two decades, is all set to enter its sliver jubilee next year (2025).

Some of the well-known resource persons who have guided the students in the camp over the years include Lalgudi G. Jayaraman, M. Balamuralikrishna, Umayalapuram K. Shivaraman, T.V. Gopalakrishnan, M. Chandrashekhar, V.V. Subramaniam, Bombay Jayashree, T.M. Krishna, Nevyveli Santhanagopalan, Unnikrishnan and Abhishek Raghuram.

The picturesque house is surrounded by arecanut with cocoa plantations on both sides, rubber plantation on one side and a green hillock on another side. Music is pervasive in this house that the family inherited long ago.

Karunbithil is the name of the place where the house is located in the village. The word 'Karumbu' in Tulu language, which Mr. Ramamurthy's family members speak, means sugarcane and 'Bithil' means backyard. It was the house in whose backyard a lot of sugarcane was grown in the past.

History of camp

The senior most member of the family is Krishnaveni Amma, mother of Ramamurthy, who is 78 now. "Initially my father, violinist B.V. Subba Rao taught me music. I came from Coimbatore to Nidle at the age of 16 after my marriage in 1961. I continued to learn music from Udupi Gopalakrishna in Nidle. He used to come from Kanchana (near Uppinangady) and stay for a week or so teaching music," she told *The Hindu*.

"I taught whatever I learnt to my five children. They learnt music under difficult circumstances by going to different places including to Chennai." The children emerged as a team of musicians with two vocalists, two violinists and one learning mridanga.

The ancestral house of senior violinist Vittal Ramamurthy has been the venue of 'Karunbithil Shibira' for the past 24 years.

Family members of Vittal Ramamurthy having food at the 'Karunbithil Shibira.'

"I thought that children in the region should not face the difficulties faced by my children in learning music. Hence we decided to create a platform in the village to learn music and get it fine tuned by expert musicians. The camp began in 2000 with about 10 to 15 students. My daughter Rajeshwari began it," the mother explained.

A family event

Started initially as a week-long camp it turned out as a five-day camp about a decade ago now attracting participants of up to 300 including from Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala in addition to Karnataka and from abroad including from the United States.

It has evolved into a highly anticipated annual event and has flourished as a family-like gathering.

Nuances of music are discussed, fans and students immerse themselves in concerts by stalwarts, students are guided in an atmosphere of music in the camp usually held during May. It has played a pivotal role in nurturing and inspiring music students, instilling a deep passion for learning, and artistic growth.

The host of activities which begin at 8 a.m. on all the five days go on till late in the evening sometimes beyond midnight. Classical music fans Prabhachandra Mayya and Venkatesh Mayya of Mangaluru have been sponsoring the food at the camp voluntarily since over a decade.

The camp did not take place furing the pandemic year. Othewise, it would have already completed the silver jubilee.

Said Vishwaskrishna, a Mangaluru-based violinist, a disciple of Ramamurthy and a co-ordinator of the camp, "Abhishek Raghuraman taught the intricacies of music from 11.30 p.m. to 4 a.m. at this year's camp on May 17, 2024. Students without realising that it was past mid-night listened till early morning of May 18, 2024."

Musicians speak

Anantha R. Krishnan, a young mridangam player from Chennai who is the grandson of Vidwan Palghat Raghu, who performed at the camp this year, said that the camp is unique as it is free from commercial motive. The family-like atmosphere is a plus point in learning at the camp, he said.

Aravinda Hebbar, a Carnatic musician and a music critic from Udupi, said that the Karunbithil family spread the seeds of music in the surroundings of Dharmasthala. "The camp has educated many a students of music like me," he said.

78-year-old Krishnaveni Amma.

Spoorthi Rao, a vocalist from Bengaluru, said that she attended the camp for the first time this year though she was yearning to attend for many years. "It was an amazing experience and the workshops were very informative. The food and hospitality were great," she said. Violinist Charumathi Raghuraman and her husband Anantha R Krishnan performed amid pouring rains in the middle of Nature on this May 16 evening. "I never had such an evening experience in my life," said Spoorthi.

Deputy Commissioner of Dakshina Kannada M.P. Mullai Muhilan and the Assistant Commissioner of Puttur Sub-Division Jubin Mohapatra dropped in at the camp and sat through the concert.

From Colombo, Zurich

Brothers Arvind Sharma and Ananthanaryana Sharma came from Colombo, Sri Lanka, to attend the camp for the first time this year with their other family members. "Senior artistes casually mingled with the students. We enjoyed music with nature and will visit again next year," they said adding that their sisters are students of Mr. Ramamurthy. Srinidhi Kaushik, a native of Bengaluru who worked as chip design engineer at Zurich, Switzerland, participated in the camp for the first time this year with his wife, parents and three-year-old daughter. "Learning was made interesting for students through classical music based games. The camp exceeded our expectations," he, also a vocalist, said.

Ramamurthy told *The Hindu*, "The camp is a platform where children learn from several gurus and gurus teach several students of diferent backgrounds. Over the years lot of musicians want to attend the camp voluntarily and perform or want to share their experiences. It is like a small family event."

"It is like a room where students from Class 1 to Class 5 sit together and learn. At the end of the camp every student picks up something while going back," the senior violinist said recalling the cooperation of several of his friends in organising the camp for long.

The camp has inspired several youngsters to pursue music as a profession and earn their livelihood, he added. Ramamurthy said that the family will invite all senior gurus of Carnatic music to the next year's silver jubilee camp and felicitate them. Students will also get an opportunity to learn from them.

Valmiki corporation scam: BJP ups ante for Minister's resignation

Karnataka govt. comes to Nagendra's defence and asks BJP to be patient as a probe is on

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As speculation over the continuation of Minister for Scheduled Tribes Welfare B. Nagendra in the Cabinet persisted, with the demand for his resignation raised by the BJP in connection with the ₹94-crore scam at the Maharshi Valmiki Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation, his Cabinet colleagues came to his defence on Thursday.

BJP workers staged a dharna in front of the Chief Minister's residence here seeking the Minister's resignation.

The scam became public after accounts superintendent of the corporation Chandrasekaran P. ended his life at his residence in Shivamogga on Sunday.

He had named the now suspended corporation managing director J.G. Padmanabh and accounts officer Parashuram G. Durugannanavar, besides Union Bank of India (UBI), M.G. Road branch, chief manager Suchismita Raul to be part of the scam.

Members of the BJP ST Morcha being detained during a protest in front of the Chief Minister's house in Bengaluru on Thursday. PTI

Moved to 14 accounts

It is alleged that of the about ₹187.33 crore deposited in the UBI, about ₹94 crore had been moved to 14 accounts belonging to IT companies in Ratnakar Bank and a Hyderabad-based cooperative bank using forged signatures and documents. The BJP has been saying that the money had been moved to unauthorised accounts based on "oral instructions from the Minister".

Home Minister G. Parameshwara admitted that there was a reference in the death note to the Minister's alleged "oral instructions", but nothing could be said about it until investigation was completed.

"The investigation will cover charges that money was transferred to bank accounts of IT firms," he said. The Home Minister visited the house of the deceased in Shivamogga.

He promised that those responsible for his death would be dealt with firmly.

According to multiple government sources, though Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar held discussions on the issue, it is likely that they will wait for a preliminary report before any action is initiated on the Minister's resignation. The CID is currently probing the case.

Not comparable

While the BJP, citing the instance of the Congress demanding the resignation of the then BJP Minister K.S. Eshwarappa, sought the removal of Mr. Nagendra from the Cabinet, Dr. Parameshwara and Mr. Shivakumar came to his defence, stating that the two instances were different and not comparable.

In 2022, Mr. Eshwarappa, who was Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister in the BJP government, had to resign after Santosh Patil, a contractor named him in a note before ending his life.

"The Chief Minister has taken the case seriously and we are investigating. Unwarranted allegations do not deserve a response. If the allegations are proved, we will take strict action against all those involved," the Deputy Chief Minister told reporters here.

When his attention was drawn to Mr. Eshwarappa's case, the Deputy Chief Minister said: "These are two different cases. In this case, there is no direct allegation against Mr. Nagendra. This is not a small scam, the government is investigating."

Asking the Opposition to have patience, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Priyank Kharge said: "Let us wait for 15 days, we will get a preliminary report. Why is the Opposition anxious? Officials at all levels will not deal with financial aspects based on oral instructions. The Finance Department has laid down rules for all financial transactions."

Union Bank of India files plaint with CBI

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

It has placed three officials under suspension in connection with the Valmiki corporation scam

In the centre of the controversy over unauthorised transactions of over ₹94 crore that belonged to the Maharshi Valmiki Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation, the Union Bank of India (UBI) on Thursday filed a formal complaint with the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for a "thorough investigation" even as it placed three officials under suspension.

The development comes close on the heels of the corporation complaining with the High Grounds police here over the fraudulent transactions in the bank following which the police filed an FIR against six bank officials – the chief executive officer and managing director, four executive directors, and the chief manager of the bank's M.G. Road branch.

The Mumbai-based UBI in a release said, "The bank has promptly declared the transactions in question as fraudulent when the irregularities came to light. To ensure a thorough investigation and swift identification of the culprits, we have filed a formal complaint with the CBI. Additionally, three branch officials have been placed under suspension pending further inquiry."

'Money used for election funding'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

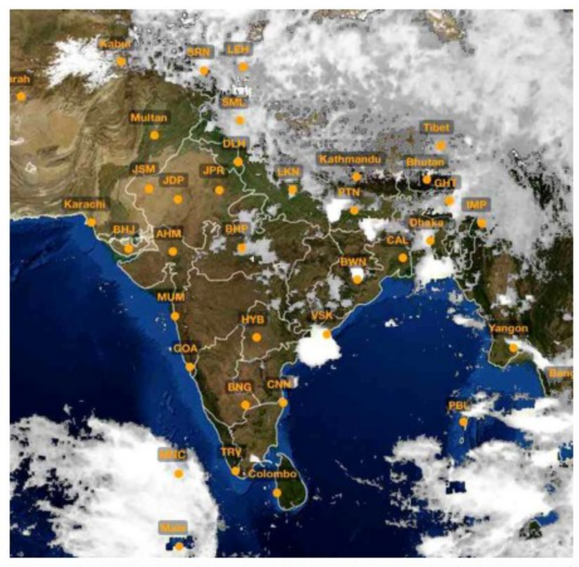
The former Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Thursday claimed that ₹94 crore transferred from Union Bank of India to unauthorised accounts in Hyderabad was used for election funding during the Lok Sabha polls.

"If the investigation has to be transparent, it has to be handed over to the CBI. As per the rules, any financial irregularity over ₹10 crore reported in a nationalised bank should be handed over to the CBI for probe. While the Minister claims that he did not give oral instruction, the deceased officer has mentioned Minister B. Nagendra's name."

Responding to this, Home Minister G. Parameshwara said it cannot be deemed truth just because an allegation is being made by the Opposition. "It can only be ascertained by investigation and action will be taken if it is found to be true," he added.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Friday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Sikkim, Kerala and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Heat wave conditions likely in isolated pockets over Chandigarh, Delhi, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	35.0	27.8	Kozhikode	5	31.4	26.1
Ahmedabad	—	43.2	30.1	Kurnool	—	41.0	29.2
Aizawl	—	30.5	25.8	Lucknow	—	45.1	32.4
Allahabad	—	47.7	34.2	Madurai	—	40.2	27.6
Bengaluru	—	33.0	22.0	Mangaluru	—	32.7	25.4
Bhopal	—	42.4	29.2	Mumbai	—	35.3	29.2
Bhubaneswar	—	37.1	30.1	Mysuru	—	33.2	—
Chandigarh	—	44.9	30.1	New Delhi	—	45.6	30.4
Chennai	—	41.9	28.4	Patna	—	40.7	31.7
Coimbatore	—	33.9	24.2	Port Blair	19	31.1	26.0
Dehradun	—	42.8	29.3	Puducherry	—	40.0	28.6
Gangtok	13	22.8	18.6	Pune	—	36.9	25.8
Goa	—	35.8	27.9	Raipur	—	46.8	31.1
Guwahati	4	30.5	24.0	Ranchi	—	42.0	30.2
Hubballi	—	36.0	25.0	Shillong	4	25.1	16.5
Hyderabad	—	40.4	29.4	Shimla	—	35.1	23.6
Imphal	27	28.5	19.1	Srinagar	0.4	27.3	13.8
Jaipur	—	45.3	32.6	Thiruvananthapuram	93	29.8	24.7
Kochi	31	29.2	24.8	Tiruchi	—	39.1	28.0
Kohima	18	21.8	16.0	Vijayawada	—	42.4	29.4
Kolkata	—	35.6	29.7	Visakhapatnam	—	36.0	30.4

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO₂	NO₂	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.17	..—	.64	...306	...267	
Bengaluru	...2	..16	.21	...123	...101	
Chennai	.20	..23	107	43	43	
Delhi	.21	141	.91	...272	...310	
Hyderabad	.46	..23	...3	57	...107	
Kolkata	...6	..16	.18	79	73	
Lucknow	...5	..55	.31	...302	...218	
Mumbai	.26	..88	.45	52	87	
Pune	.16	..17	.67	73	66	
Visakhapatnam	.16	..49	.24	72	...140	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Baddi, Himachal Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 301 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Ramanathapuram, Tamil Nadu recorded a healthy AQI score of 28

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO₂: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO₂: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

KARNATAKA URBAN WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE BOARD
'JAL BHAVAN', No. 6, 1st Stage, 1st Phase, BTM Layout
Bannerghatta Main Road, Bengaluru - 560 029
Phone : 080-41106504 - 18.
e-mail: cekwbbng@gmail.com website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPPP only)

1) IFT No. KUWSDB/2024-25/WS/ WORK_INDENT198
Name of the work : "Providing Improvements of Water Supply System to Jigani, Anekal, Doddaballapura and Hoskote under AMRUT 2.0 including Operation and Maintenance for a period of 5 years (including 1 year DLP) through Design, Build, Operate and Transfer (DBOT) mode" amounting to Rs.103.84 Crores.

2) IFT No. KUWSDB/2024-25/WS/ WORK_INDENT199
Name of the work: "Providing Improvements of Water Supply System to Magadi, Channapatna, Kanakapura and Harohalli under AMRUT 2.0 including Operation and Maintenance for a period of 5 years (including 1 year DLP) through Design, Build, Operation and Transfer (DBOT) mode." amounting to Rs.181.74 Crores.

For further details may be obtained through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- CHIEF ENGINEER (B), KUWS & D BOARD, Bengaluru
DIPR/CP/156/AKAR/2024-25

DEPARTMENT OF PRISONS AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICE KARNATAKA STATE
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT, CENTRAL PRISON, PARAPPANA AGRAHARA, ELECTRONIC CITY POST, BENGALURU-560100

No.CPB:TENDER/2370/2024-25 Dated: 23-05-2024

SHORT TIME KPP Portal NOTICE (CALL-2)

The purchases of food articles, vegetables, Chicken, Meat, Eggs, Miscellaneous articles & Bakery / Factory Raw materials to Bengaluru Central Prison and Prisons of Bengaluru Zone for the year 2024-25 to be procured through Short Time kpp portal (Call-2) as per the KTPP Act.

1) **Brief detail of Tender: The purchases of Food articles/Food grains to Central Prison. Bengaluru under Lot-1. 2. 3. and Bengaluru Zone Jurisdiction Prisons under Lot-1 and 2.**
2) **The purchases of Fruits and Vegetables to Central Prison. Bengaluru under lot-4 and Bengaluru Zone Jurisdiction Prisons under Lot-3.**
3) **The purchases of Bone less Male sheep mutton, chicken and Eggs to Central Prison, Bengaluru under Lot-5.and Bengaluru Zone Jurisdiction Prisons under Lot-4.**
4) **The purchases of Miscellaneous articles to Central Prison, Bengaluru under Lot-6 and Bengaluru Zone Jurisdiction Prisons under Lot-5**
5) **The purchases of Bakery raw Materials to Central Prison, Bengaluru under Lot-7.**
6) **The purchases of Factory raw Materials to Central Prison, Bengaluru under Lot-8**

Tender Indent No, EMD Amount and Last date for Submission: As per e-portal.

Last date of receiving Samples of food items **Date: 05-06-2024 upto 5:00 p.m.** and Suppliers can also take e-Procurement details from website: **kppp.karnataka.gov.in or Helpline No. +91-8046010000, +91-8068948777**

Sd/- Chief Superintendent
Central Prison, Bengaluru Prisons and Correctional Services.
DIPR/CP/RO133AAPL/2024-25

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Sarvagnanagara Division, Nethaji Subhash Chandra Bose Building, 7th Floor, (PUB), M.G. Road, Bengaluru-01

No.: EE(SGN)/Tend/03/2024-25 Date: 30.05.2024

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER
(Two Cover System) (through GOK KPPP Portal only)

The Executive Engineer, Sarvagnanagara Division, BBMP invites Proposal (Technical and Financial) from the eligible **Consultants for Preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR)** for the work listed below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Construction of Sports Complex at Kacharakanahalli Ground in Ward No. 76. **Project Cost in Crore:** 25.00, **Amount put to tender for DPR:** 25,00,000/-, **EMD in Rs.:** 2,50,000/-

Calender of events: (1) Request for Proposal Document may be downloaded from the Government of Karnataka Website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** from **28.05.2024. (2)** Availability of request for proposal document from **03.06.2024** onwards. **(3)** Date of Pre Proposal metting **04.06.2024** at **4:00 p.m. (4)** Last date for uploading the filled proposal is **11.06.2024** upto **4:00 p.m. (5)** Date of opening of Technical Proposal is **12.06.2024** at **4:30 p.m. (6)** Date of opening of Financail Proposal **after approval of Technical proposals through KPPP.** Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours or website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Sarvagnanagar Division, BBMP

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
(ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ)
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕೋಶ
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ
E-Mail:dudc_mnd@yahoo.co.in Ph.No:08232-231111
ಸಂ: MDY:CR:E-T-TENDER(fodder)/06/2023–24
ದಿನಾಂಕ:29–05–2024

ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಮಂಡ್ಯ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕುಗಳನ್ನು ಬರಪೀಡಿತ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕುಗಳೆಂದು ಘೋಷಿಸಲಾಗಿರುವುದರಿಂದ ಮುಂಬರುವ ದಿನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಮಂಡ್ಯ ನಗರ ಮತ್ತು ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಪ್ರದೇಶಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಜಾನುವಾರುಗಳಿಗೆ ಮೇವಿನ ಕೊರತೆ ಉಂಟಾಗದಂತೆ ಮುಂಜಾಗ್ರತೆವಹಿಸಿ ಪಶು ಪಾಲನಾ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಮಂಡ್ಯವತಿಯಿಂದ ಮೇವು ಖರೀದಿ ಮಾಡಲು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಆದೇಶ 1999 ಮತ್ತು ನಿಯಮಗಳು 2000 ರಂತೆ ಅರ್ಹ ಮೇವು ಸರಬರಾಜುದಾರರುಗಳಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: **RD/2024-25/IND0191, ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 252.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು, ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 3.79 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು.** ಅಸಕ್ತಿಯುಳ್ಳ ಮೇವು ಸರಬರಾಜುದಾರರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಸ್ತಾವೇಜುಗಳನ್ನು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ವೇದಿಕೆ **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ನಿಂದ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡು **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ವಿದ್ಯುನ್ಮಾನ ಮೂಲಕವೇ ತಮ್ಮ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವುದು. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿಗಳಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ, ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಚುರಪಡಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು. (1) ಪ್ರೀ–ಬಿಡ್ ಮಿಟಿಂಗ್ **ದಿನಾಂಕ:01.06.2024 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ.** (2) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **12.06.2024ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ.** (3) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ:**14.06.2024 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ**

ಸಹಿ/–ಯೋಜನಾ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು,
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕೋಶ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ

ಪಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಸನಿ–ಮಂ/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಪಿಸಿಎ/011/2024–25

IN THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-1, AT BANGALORE
O.A. No. 897 of 2023

M/s. CANARA BANK
BOMMASANDRA MAIN BR., HOSUR MAIN Rd., B'LORE-99
Rep. by its Senior Manager **V/s. ....APPLICANT**
Smt. ROOPA R
....DEFENDANT

SUMMONS TO THE DEFENDANT ISSUED UNDER RULE 23 (VIII) OF DRT (PROCEDURE) RULES 1993

Smt. ROOPA R
Aged about 37 Years, W/o. Sri Srinivasan A, **Proprietrix M/s. M.S.R. ENTERPRISES** @ # 203, BEML 5th Stage, R R Nagar, Bangalore-560098.

WHEREAS the above named Applicant has instituted an application U/S 19 of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks & Financial Institutions Act, 1993, against the defendant for recovery of a sum of **Rs. 94,95,938/=** alongwith court costs, together with current & future interest and other reliefs from the date of application till date of recovery. You are hereby required **to show cause within 30 days of the service of the summons or on 2nd day of August 2024 at 10:30 a.m.** either in person or duly instructed pleader as to why the relief prayed for should not be granted.
Take Notice that, in case of default the application will be heard and determined in your absence.
Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this the 4th day of April 2024 at Bangalore.

BY THE ORDER OF THE TRIBUNAL
Sd/- (REGISTRAR)
Debts Recovery Tribunal-1 for Karnataka
BSNL Building, 4th Floor, Telephone House, Raj Bhavan Road, Bangalore-560 001.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to notify the General Public that, my client claims to have lost the Original Partition Deed **Document No:1475/1957-58,** registered on 3/8/1957 before the Sub-Registrar, Bangalore City North, and Partition Deed, executed among the family members of Late B. Rajanna on 18/4/1986 vide Document Page No: 286, which confirms the inheritance rights of my client **B. Prabhu Shankar @ Prabha Shankar** and his LR's as well for further transaction, pertaining to the Schedule property, morefully, detailed hereunder Schedule, which are not traceable till date and my Client further claims that, the same is not deposited/ mortgaged with any Bank or Financial Institution/s with an intention to create any charge on the Schedule Property. If any person/s who is/are in possession of the same, he/they shall be/are requested to hand over the same to the undersigned ***Within FIFTEEN days*** from the date of publication of this Notice.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing municipal No: 100/13, 1st Main Road, Seshadripura, Bangalore city 7th Division, presently comes under the limits of BBMP Ward No. 77-Dathathreya Temple, (earlier Ward No. 6), Bengaluru, having **PID No. 6-33-100/13,** measuring to an extent; **East to West 35 Feet, North to South 54 Feet, (35 X 54)** property consisted with 20 squares of RCC roofed building thereon in the premises bounded on:

East by: Seshadripuram 1st Main Road
West by: Property belongs to Karthik S/o B.Sidhanath.
North by: Cross Road and
South by: Property belongs to Laxman Marbles.

The total Land Area of the Schedule Property is 1890 Square Feet.

Sd/-
C. Raju, Advocate,
A.R. Associates,
#9, 9th Cross, 8th Main, Brundavan Nagar, Mathikere, Bangalore-54.
Mbl. No. 98451 45445 / 98456 43327

BUSINESS CONNECT

A Business Initiative

Bengaluru branch of Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), the National Standards body of India (under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Govt of India) organized Manak Manthanx

The Event was held at Training Hall, Bureau of Indian Standards, Bengaluru Branch Office, Opposite Jalahalli Metro, Peenya, Tumkur Rd, Vivekananda Nagar. Bengaluru. It was about the recently circulated -DRAFT INDIAN STANDARD ON SAFETY RELIEF DEVICE FOR PRESSURE COOKERS SPECIFICATION for comments from all stakeholders, laboratories, NGOs and consumers. 20 participants of cooker manufacturing industries, laboratories, consumer societies joined the discussion online and offline from various districts of Karnataka. The meeting also invited comments from the stakeholders on the draft for the revision of the said standard. Mr Vijayaveeran K, Director & Head, BNBO, welcomed all the guests and attendees of the event and briefed them about the programme objectives. Mr B Viswanath Shenoy, Super Annuated (Retired) from Ms TTK Prestige Limited, Ex Senior General Manager : Product Development, Quality Assurance, MR for Systems and Product Certifications, and member of the Technical Committee of the Bureau meant for formulation of the Indian standards related to -DRAFT INDIAN STANDARD ON SAFETY RELIEF DEVICE FOR PRESSURE COOKERS SPECIFICATION graced the occasion as the chief guest. He Opined that Consumer safety is the utmost requirement and all comments regarding that will be entertained. Ms. Nagamani T, Head BIS Bangalore Laboratory, Rajasekhar K, Scientist D & Joint Director, BIS Bangalore Branch Office addressed the gathering. Finally, the comments were taken from all the attendees and put forward for the necessary amendments(if required). The event was concluded with a healthy feedback.

Malabar Group scales up 'Hunger-free world' programme

'Hunger-Free World', the ongoing CSR programme by Malabar Group to provide nutritious daily meals to the needy, will be expanded to cover more people and cities. At present, as many as 31,000 food packets are distributed under the ambitious programme, initiated to support the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal 2 - Zero Hunger. As part of scaling up, Malabar Charitable Trust takes care of 51000 people's meals per day and nearly 18.6 million meals per year at 71 locations globally. The expansion plan was officially flagged off by Smt. Rohini K deputy director department of Information and public relations, at the World Hunger Day observance event at Malabar Gold & Diamonds MG Road Store. The event was presided by Filsor Babu, Karnataka Reginal Head unveiled the event by welcome speech. The program focused on reaching out to individuals in need, especially those living on the streets, we provide them with meals to ensure their well-being. The Malabar Group is also active in other social welfare and charitable activities like financial assistance for medical care, education support to female students, and partial support for house construction. The Group earmarks five percent of the profits from its verticals, including Malabar Gold & Diamonds, as a CSR fund for social welfare activities. The Group has already spent Rs 246 crore for such social welfare programmes

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-Limited Tender No.: CPMGSU-2024-01
Dated: 23.05.2024

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-tenders for the following work.

Item of Work	Appx. Value
Feasibility Survey for shifting of Existing Railway alignment / under ground construction between Km.8/147 to 12/576 near Airport on Mysuru-Chamarajanagar section.	Rs. 21,99,184.40

Last date for submission of bids:
Up to 11:00 hrs. of 14.06.2024
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Chief Project Manager / GSU
Mysuru
PUB/127/AAV/PRB/SWR/2024-25
South Western Railway-SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER-II
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL
(DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL SERVICES, MINISTRY OF FINANCE, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA)
31-31-21, Gr. & 1st Floor, Sri Narayana Bhavanam, Sai Baba Street, Dabagardens, Visakhapatnam-530020
Ph: 0891-2957045, E-mail: ro2.drtvpatnam@gmail.com

R.P. No.22 of 2016 in OA No.347 of 2013

Canara Bank (e-Syndicate bank), Main Branch, Guntur District
Versus
M/s. Andhra Rice Oil Mills Pvt. Ltd. and others.

SUB: POSTPONMENT OF E-AUCTION SALE

It is to inform all the concerned that, due to no bids, at the request of the CHr Bank, the online e-auction sale scheduled to be held on 31.05.2024 on the website of **https://www.bankeauctions.com** as per Sale Proclamation/E-Auction Sale notice dated 10.04.2024, is hereby **postponed to 28.06.2024**. The last date for submission of bids and EMD is 26.06.2024 and for submission of hard copy of the bids is 27.06.2024. All other terms and conditions are remain the same as mentioned in the said Sale Proclamation/E-Auction Sale notice dated 10.04.2024.

(Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal at Visakhapatnam on the 29th May, 2024)

(B.N.S.V.S.K. Bangarraju)
Recovery Officer

Reign of fire

New Delhi's experience of high heat cannot be pinned on climate change

On May 29, the Mungeshpur automatic weather station north of New Delhi recorded a maximum of 52.9° C. While the India Meteorological Department has since suggested that the station's thermistor may be faulty, the country's north has clearly been suffering scorching weather. After the recording was reported, New Delhi's Water Minister imposed a fine of ₹2,000 on those washing vehicles with hoses and allowing water tanks to overflow, and said 200 teams would monitor for wastage. The temperatures people experience in a place are produced by a combination of factors, including public ventilation, density of built-up structures, and the availability of shade. How a person's body responds to such heat is also mediated by several forces. But it has become the norm to blame climate change as the all-encompassing cause of the consequences of extreme heat, and thus argue that the governments' only option is to react. The fact is that though New Delhi is large, it is smaller than the scale at which climate models reliably predict anomalous heat. Even if an attribution exercise concludes Mungeshpur's temperature was related to climate change, no interstate cooperation or heat response mechanism exists to act meaningfully on the finding.

According to New Delhi's new orders, the monitoring teams have been empowered to sever illegal supply lines, placing those in informal settlements at risk. For this to be fair, the city must already have ensured all its residents are sufficiently supplied with legal connections. Equally, 200 teams are too few for a city of its size. Together with there being no effective way to scrutinise water use in private properties, their mandate amounts to little. The city's peak power demand also crossed 8.3 gigawatt on May 29; high heat increases water consumption at power generation facilities. New Delhi has a heat action plan but the city's present response suggests it does not accommodate externalities such as the availability of water from neighbouring Haryana and illegal supply connections. Such plans should also include passive, long-term measures that ensure life can go on irrespective of the ambient temperature. With respect to water, for example, cities could maintain a reservoir for emergencies, a distribution system that resists tampering, and municipal body teams that conduct surprise wastage checks year-round rather than intermittently. Similarly, instead of shutting schools and offices to avoid peak heat, as many action plans stipulate, governments should facilitate cooling by (traditional) architectural methods, set up shaded pedestrian corridors, and incentivise the use of air-conditioned public transport. Governments are answerable to the terms on which they expect people to cope with the heat.

Demonising protests

Umar Khalid's right to protest should not be seen as incitement of riots

A perverse combination of statutory restrictions and judicial deference has kept former university scholar Umar Khalid in prison for over three years. In yet another order denying him bail, a Sessions Court in Delhi declined to change its mind on earlier findings that the charge that he was part of a "larger conspiracy" behind the north-east Delhi riots of 2020 was *prima facie* true. It declined to countenance the argument that the trial proceedings were being delayed far too long and that a July 2023 judgment on grant of bail in cases under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) could support his petition for bail. The court, instead, banked on earlier orders denying him bail, especially the Delhi High Court's 2022 verdict that agreed with the Delhi Police claim that the riots were "orchestrated at conspiratorial meetings", even though there is nothing more than WhatsApp chats on organising road blockades to substantiate it. Bail hearings have been interminably long in Mr. Khalid's case, and inevitably end in rejections. In fact, before the Supreme Court, his bail application was listed over a dozen times, and repeatedly adjourned. He chose to withdraw the application in February 2024 and try his luck before the lower courts again. However, the Sessions Court did not see any reason to change its view.

The outcome is quite unfortunate, as while granting bail in 2021 to three other activists implicated in the Delhi riots case, the Delhi High Court had looked at the available evidence and ruled that none of them had been specifically accused of any 'terrorist' act or plot or act preparatory to it. It had remarked that the state, in its anxiety to suppress dissent, had blurred the line between the constitutionally guaranteed right to protest and terrorist activity. The attempt to conflate the organisation of the protests against the amendment to the citizenship law with the riots resulted in the police invoking UAPA without justification. The UAPA bars the grant of bail if the court is of the view that the allegations against a suspect are *prima facie* true. To compound the difficulty, judicial decisions prohibit any detailed scrutiny of the evidence at the bail stage, and mandate accepting the prosecution case based on its "broad probabilities". This low standard enables the police to repeatedly achieve success in opposing bail to dissenters and the disfavoured. Umar Khalid's continued and unjust incarceration represents a trend as well as an aberration in the criminal justice system. A system that sometimes bats for personal liberty also demonises protesters, allows unwanted arrests and routinely denies bail or indefinitely postpones bail hearings.

India's middle class and the 'Modi factor'

Gabriele Parussini

As Prime Minister Narendra Modi looked set to win a second term in 2019, Gabriele Parussini delved into the psychology of the country's middle-class voters who were the main engine behind his previous victory. His analysis is worth revisiting today

Narendra Modi's appeal to the middle class is a case study in political communication, as his style of populism does not neatly fit any typical framework long studied by academics.

In liberal democracies the world over, the middle class is known to be an anchor of stability and a defender of the status quo. Like elsewhere, members of India's middle class are no revolutionaries. They support communal peace and social stability, they seek improvement through incremental change, not uprisings, and, above all, are keen to eschew politics altogether.

In a study of Indian middle-class voters during the 2019 election campaign, I found that most of them supported the status quo – a secular, multicultural India that emerged after Independence. These voters acknowledged the centripetal potential of religion in the Indian polity and assessed it negatively. This was true even among many supporters of Mr. Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

Why then does this stability-loving middle class vote for a party whose policies are aimed at changing the secular status quo? Does its shift towards a national-populist party such as the BJP represent a rebellion, a rejection of the present order, or is it the result of other dynamics, including the perception that the party is not extremist any more?

Could double messaging be the answer?

The answer, my research found, lies partly in a double messaging by Mr. Modi and the BJP.

Of the voters I interviewed, only a tiny minority – less than a tenth of the sample – supported unconditionally the BJP's agenda items in their original, extreme, uncompromising form. A large majority of the participants, including BJP supporters, for instance, did not support the construction of the Ram temple in Ayodhya, because they were afraid it would spark violence. They supported a compromise, and did not fully believe that the party would go ahead with the creation of the temple. In short, the BJP's promise of building the temple had low credibility.

Low credibility is usually a downside for a party because it undermines voter trust in its commitment. However, low credibility helped the BJP develop a double level of communication with its audience. The assumption that the party would not act on its most extreme, Hindutva-connotated proposals made it sound more innocuous to moderate middle-class voters.

This does not necessarily mean that there was discrepancy between the BJP's message and the middle class's understanding of it. Rather, the audience decoded the message in accordance with its own social and cultural context, even though it did not necessarily accept the underlying ideology. In other words, India's middle class did not engage with the BJP's entire message, ignoring the parts it found unacceptable.

The encoder of the political message – in this case Mr. Modi and the BJP – took advantage of the middle class's willingness to ignore the obvious consequences of its choices by offering a pretence of moderation, which I call 'implicit moderation'.

Ultimately, however, this 'implicit moderation' only held true during the election campaign, fostering an impression that let voters believe that they were not choosing something revolutionary. Once it came to power, the BJP swayed to its more extreme instincts, taking peace-threatening measures such as construction of the Ram temple.

Alternate narratives

Another question this study set out to answer is to what extent the middle class is aware of the BJP's attempts to create alternative narratives aimed at changing the public perception of the record.

I found that participants could separate the effective change that has been delivered and the impression of change that the BJP was eager to convey.

For instance, many of the participants noted that the BJP had tinkered with the names of welfare schemes since it got into power, such as by adding 'PM' to the names. One participant said that attention to public perception and promotion of government action were the main differences between the BJP government and its predecessor. "Maybe [the same] was happening with Congress. But [now] the media is promoting so much, [that] we know this is happening," he said.

Respondents singled out the aim of the BJP's communication: to bypass the voters' rational side and play on their emotions.

Despite understanding that the BJP constructs alternative narratives when it suits, middle-class voters support it again partly because of Mr. Modi's communication.

Consider how voters perceive the government's economic measures.

When asked what the main measures adopted by the BJP-led government until 2019 are, two-thirds of the respondents mentioned either demonetisation or the introduction of the goods and services tax, or GST.

The overwhelming majority of participants thought both of these measures caused large disruption, or their implementation was botched up. Still, many of them held a positive image of the party's record in power, thanks to the government's messaging.

In demonetisation, for instance, the BJP built an alternative narrative, one in which Mr. Modi's populist tactics are on full display.

The process set up was highly dramatic. Mr. Modi described himself as the hero who was leading a fight against an evil conspiracy. Demonetisation became a moral tale where regular people are associated to the hero in a fight against the money hoarder, and, essentially, the rich.

The revenge narrative had a wide appeal, irrespective of participants' political allegiance. "The big people, the businessmen had the most problems...which was a good thing. Poor people did not have any problem," said one participant.

Rather than focusing on the negative consequences of these measures, participants were swayed by Mr. Modi's decisiveness. One BJP opponent said that "demonetisation was very drastic", but called it "a very good step" because Mr. Modi "didn't think twice" about it. Mr. Modi's decisiveness showed that he takes responsibility for his own actions, radical as they may be.

This research found that the middle class wants to see an affirmative, purposeful government that does not refrain from action, even if the rights and the freedom of some sections of society are curtailed.

An original style

In the last 10 years of his leadership, it is debatable whether Mr. Modi has been the 'Vikas Purush' or development man that he promised to be in 2014. But there is no debate that his development credentials with the middle class have been barely dented. That is thanks to his effective advertisement and the adoption of populist tactics to communicate with the audience. Populism thrives around a communication process that creates a direct connection between the leader and his audience, and Mr. Modi has created an original style of populism that academics are still studying.

The middle class can see through the BJP's promotional effort, but tolerates the party's aggressive communication style because it considers it to be fair game in politics. How this electorate votes in the ongoing elections will warrant further study not only to better understand the communication tools that work for populist leaders but also to get clues on the future of the world's largest democracy.

Gabriele Parussini, who was the India correspondent for The Wall Street Journal, decided in the late 2010s to pursue a PhD under the supervision of Christophe Jaffrelot and Rafal Zaborowski at King's College, but died of blood cancer soon after submitting his thesis. He has just been awarded the title of doctor, posthumously

India and the 'managed care' promise

Dr. Soham Bhaduri

is a physician and an independent researcher who specialises in health policy and leadership

Universal Health care is a complex maze, but managed care organisations could be a part of the answer Indian health care seeks

Health insurance as the main modality of universal health coverage (UHC) now looks to be indisputably confirmed to be ingrained in Indian health policy thinking. Aided by the digital revolution, it is opening doors to potential reforms that are redolent of the United States, albeit with local adaptations that avoid its profligate spending on health. Recently, a notable health-care chain in South India announced its foray into comprehensive health insurance by combining insurance and health-care provision functions under one roof – what can be called the Indian iteration of a managed care organisation (MCO). It is timely to reflect on whether MCOs hold promise for the bigger Indian health-care landscape, particularly when it comes to extending universal health care.

The background

Having its precursors in some rudimentary prepaid health-care practices in the United States of the 20th century, the strongest impetus for mainstreaming MCOs in U.S. health care came in the 1970s, when cost containment concerns in health care loomed large. Hitherto dominated by generously reimbursed providers in cahoots with insurers, high premiums became increasingly unattractive for health insurance purchasers following the economic slowdown after the 1970s. This prompted the fusion of insurance and provisioning functions under one roof, a focus on prevention and early management, and a strict emphasis on cost control – all this was against a fixed premium paid by the enrollee.

Ever since then, MCOs have evolved into multiple generations and forms, and have penetrated deep and wide into the health insurance space. Although robust evidence on their contribution to improving health outcomes and prioritising preventive care has been lacking, evidence indicates that they did help in reducing costly hospitalisations and associated costs.

In India, ever since the first public commercial health insurance was promulgated in the 1980s, the focus has been on indemnity insurance and covering hospitalisation costs, despite a near $26 billion market for outpatient consultations in the country. As Thomas (2011) has discussed, health insurance, playing second fiddle to life and general insurance, has seen scant innovation and high, often unsustainable, costs of operation.

A contrast

In an early analysis of how the HMO – or health maintenance organisation, a type of MCO) – experience panned out for developing nations, Tollman *et al.* identified some important characteristics: MCOs tended to be urban-predominant, attracted the high-income cohort, and caught on in contexts where the public sector was failing or lacked strong socialist moorings. In addition, it required that players brought in enough financial clout, managerial capabilities, and manpower, and found well-off and well-defined beneficiary bases to serve.

Much in contrast to the U.S., the evolutionary trajectory of Indian health insurance has offered few natural incentives for consumer-driven cost control. Insurance has targeted the thin, urban well-off segment, informality has been rife among outpatient practices, and widely accepted clinical protocols have been lacking. And, while unprofitable operations coupled with unaffordable premiums can serve as incentives in theory, they are a far cry from engendering a strong systemic push towards managed care.

A few successful initiatives are likely to stem from big health-care brands having a loyal urban patient-base, and pockets deep enough to forge networks and invest in administrative capacities and infrastructure. However, prospects of them transmuting into a consequential contributor to UHC purely based on private initiative are far-fetched. That said, there could be promise in exploring the managed care route with cautious and incremental public patronage. With an average of three consultations per year per person and the negligibly small share of insurance in outpatient care spend, there lies significant scope in reducing health-care costs through early interventions afforded by comprehensive outpatient care coverage. The health insurer today has little control over the patient's journey before they reach the hospital.

NITI Aayog report

In 2021, NITI Aayog released a report endorsing an outpatient care insurance scheme based on a subscription model, which would generate savings through better integration of care. The gains from a well-functioning managed care system can easily be many times over. And its positive spillovers in terms of consolidation of dispersed practices, streamlining of management protocols, and embedding a much-needed preventive care focus in the private sector can imply a sustainable solution to the problem of outpatient care coverage over the longer term.

Under the Ayushman Bharat Mission, incentives were announced for promoting the opening of hospitals in underserved areas which would preferentially cater to beneficiaries of the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY). Similar incentives could be conceived for MCOs, which would insure and cater to PMJAY patients apart from a private, self-paying clientele on a limited scale initially and on a pilot basis. The same applies to other public sector social health insurance schemes. This would also contribute to increasing awareness and expanding the reach of MCOs over time, as the self-paying pool expands and grows the demand base.

UHC is a complex maze, and as in all complex systems, there is never a solitary answer to a complex question. Neither is there a solution that does not beget a problem in turn. While MCOs cannot be expected to be the perfect solution, they can be part of the bigger answer that Indian health care seeks today.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Kanniyakumari visit

As we approach the conclusion of the election campaign in India, we have observed the culmination of a particularly contentious period. The Bharatiya Janata Party has, regrettably, engaged in disseminating hate speech and disparaging opponents in its efforts to garner votes. Such tactics have tarnished the democratic process with unnecessary hostility and discord. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has opted to spend the final moments of the campaign in meditation. Perhaps, this appears to be a calculated attempt to alter the narrative and appeal to the electorate's sense of spirituality and contemplation.

Let us seize this moment to celebrate the end of such divisive tactics and look forward to a future where our political discourse is characterised by unity, respect, and constructive dialogue. May we all endeavour to cultivate a more inclusive and harmonious society.

Asim,
Puttur Galimugham, Karnataka

While the Prime Minister is entitled to pursue his religious belief or spirituality, it should not become a heady cocktail of spirituality and politics. Further, such visits by a Prime Minister can also, by no stretch of the imagination, be treated as being "in public interest" to justify incurring huge expenses at the cost of the taxpayer. Constitutional and political morality and propriety would demand that the Prime Minister must personally bear these expenses for such private visits. Will the 'hand-picked Election Commission' and the CAG look into the matter and lay down certain guidelines?

S.K. Choudhury,
Bengaluru

Heat management

While global warming-induced climate change contributes to an rise in temperatures and humidity, factors such as the trapping of heat due to a dense concentration of buildings, paved roads, and other surfaces made of certain materials have been exacerbating urban heat stress. City-specific plans that take into account local factors, prioritise green spaces and water bodies, and target all heat generators, including vehicles, industries, and concrete surfaces, hold the key to keeping cities from heating up in excess.

M. Jeyaram,
Sholavandan, Tamil Nadu

Does the Model Code of Conduct need legal teeth?

T.S. Krishnamurthy
is former Chief Election Commissioner

P.D.T. Achary
is former Secretary General of the Lok Sabha

PARLEY

On May 22, the Election Commission of India (ECI) asked the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Congress to desist from raising divisive issues in the campaign. In recent years, and particularly during the campaign to the ongoing Lok Sabha elections, critics of the ECI have accused the body of being late or ineffective or partial in responding to alleged violations of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC). Does the MCC need legal teeth for better implementation? T.S. Krishnamurthy and P.D.T. Achary discuss the question in a conversation moderated by **Sreeparna Chakrabarty**. Edited excerpts:

Mr. Krishnamurthy, a lot of people have said that the ECI has not properly enforced the MCC during this election and that some violations have been overlooked. What is your opinion on these allegations?

T.S. Krishnamurthy: The media and political parties make vague allegations against the ECI, and this is common during every election. As far as political parties go, one set of parties or the other will always have a complaint. This is very common in every election. Parties have their own political reasons for making complaints. What is necessary is to know how genuine these complaints are and what action has been taken. It is for the people to decide whether the action taken has been free and fair.

Mr. Achary, do you think the MCC needs legal teeth for better implementation?

P.D.T. Achary: I don't look at this from the point of view of political parties but from the point of view of law and the Constitution. Legal enforceability is out of the question because it (the MCC) doesn't have legal teeth. But the point is that the ECI has been given a lot of powers. In fact, Justice Justice Krishna Iyer had said in one of his judgments that it (the ECI) is a reservoir of powers. That means the ECI has a lot of powers to act to ensure that elections are free and fair. So, it is not necessary to give legal teeth to the MCC.

The argument against giving it legal teeth is that once it (the ECI) goes to the courts, it will take a lot of time. The electoral process, once it starts, should be completed expeditiously. So, legal teeth should not be made a part of the Representation of the People Act (RPA), 1951. In the absence of this legal provision, the MCC can be enforced and that is for the ECI to deal with because Article 324 of the Constitution gives it enormous powers wherever there is no legal provision. Whether the ECI is actually using all its powers under Article 324 is the question.

A shop sells banners, flags and other election advertisement materials in Bengaluru. THE HINDU

People who do not favour statutory measures to implement the MCC also argue that when a strict measure is taken, it disrupts the political process. Mr. Krishnamurthy, what do you think?

TSK: While I agree that the Supreme Court in one of its judgments observed that the ECI has a reservoir of powers under Article 324, it is only in respect of areas where there is a legislative vacuum. This is not an all-comprehensive power. The ECI is entitled to exercise this power without appealing to any other outside body, but even here, the restriction is that it has to be within the framework of the Constitution and the RPA. It is not as if the ECI has got extraordinary powers to go beyond the provisions of law. The ECI is accountable for its decisions in exercise of such power.

The main purpose of the MCC is to ensure a level playing field and ensure that elections take place in a free and fair manner. But the problem is that the MCC is only a code. Once it finds a violation, if the ECI can book them under the Indian Penal Code (IPC) or under the RPA, or file an FIR, that will take months and years to be decided by the courts. Moreover, the police which functions under the State government will be taking action against such complaints depending upon which party comes to power.

And if there are other violations not covered by the IPC or the RPA, all that the ECI can do is, say, ban a candidate from campaigning. But it has no wide-ranging powers as people assume, and that is where the problem lies. That is why I believe that some limited power should be given to the ECI to impose a monetary penalty or a temporary disqualification or something like that. There are some areas where I believe that it (the MCC) should be brought within the framework of law. I know there are differences of opinion among political parties and analysts.

> Judicial proceedings are out of question. An election has to be completed expeditiously within a given time frame.
> **P.D.T. ACHARY**

Some parties may not agree to such a change. But if you want to instill some fear in candidates and the political parties, at least some minimal power of imposing a monetary penalty [should be given]. Or disqualification for a short period would be ideal.

In recent times, has there been any discussion with parties on widening the ambit of the MCC or making it more efficient?

TSK: As far as I know, I don't think so.

Mr. Achary, what is the harm in including certain statutory provisions like penalties for violating the MCC within the RPA Act?

PDTA: See, once it becomes a part of the RPA Act, suppose the ECI moves in and uses that particular provision against any person who violates the MCC, that person will certainly go to court and challenge it. If there is a stay, then the matter will end there. So, quick executive action is what is required. Judicial proceedings are out of question. An election has to be completed expeditiously within a given time frame.

I agree with Mr. Krishnamurthy that the reservoir of powers doesn't mean that the ECI is omnipotent and it can operate outside the Constitution and law. The Supreme Court has made it clear that if there is a statutory law, then the ECI will have to go by that. But if there is no statutory law to deal with the particular situation, the ECI can draw this power from Article 324. Let's suppose a very important person violates the MCC. In such cases, the ECI has, even during this election, taken a leader off campaigning for 24 hours or 48 hours. If the ECI can use this power and take a person off the campaign for 24 hours or 48 hours, it can take that person off the campaign for the duration of the election if it is a very serious offence or violation. That call has to be taken by the ECI.

I would also like to draw your attention to Paragraph 16A of the Election Symbols Order, 1968. It says if there is a violation of the MCC, the ECI can even derecognise or temporarily suspend the recognition given to a party. So, it is not that the that the ECI does not have or cannot exercise its authority.

TSK: Yes, the ECI has the power under the Election Symbols Order to withdraw (recognition). But if the ECI starts withdrawing the symbol for various violations that political parties are indulging in these days, I think most of the parties are likely to lose their symbol at one stroke. It cannot be invoked in all cases; it can only be invoked in very serious cases. Among the candidates and political parties, mere fear of withdrawal of the symbol or filing an FIR doesn't work. Thousands of cases of FIRS are filed and you know how the FIRs are treated.

Over the past few years, there has been a debate on whether the ECI has been able to ensure a level playing field. What do you think?

PDTA: Here, the point is whether the ECI is using all its powers to deal with situations where senior political leaders while campaigning seem to be violating the MCC. Whether the ECI (in such situations) is acting effectively and applying the MCC and its regulatory aspect uniformly to all the people, whatever position they may hold politically or otherwise, is the question that needs to be debated. It is a serious situation. And all of us know what has been happening during this election.

Social media has become a huge influence as far as campaigning goes. Do you think it needs regulation?

TSK: This is a complex issue. There is need for regulation. How that can be done needs to be discussed with all stakeholders. I'm not saying everything is hunky dory. We have to bring about some changes. The MCC was started with a good intention. It had a lot of positive effect initially, but parties are now becoming more and more aggressive. I think it is time for us to review the contents of the MCC and also to find out methods to improve the regulation of social media, hate speeches, and fake news. But let us clearly understand that the ECI does not have that kind of a power during the election process to swiftly deal with the violations.

PDTA: Social media is unregulated, so some muck also moves through it. But the point is that when there is a some kind of a control over the rest of the media – sections of electronic media and print media – people get a lot of information through social media. Therefore, yes, there should be some healthy regulation, but otherwise social platforms are certainly serving a very important purpose, particularly in a situation like this.

To listen to the full interview
Scan the code or go to the link
www.thehindu.com

NOTEBOOK

During election time, expect the unexpected

Covering the Lok Sabha elections for the first time can be equally thrilling and daunting

Satvika Mahajan

For a cub reporter who is just finding her feet in the industry, covering any election can be intimidating, and a Lok Sabha one even more so. During election season, there is a constant influx of information and misinformation. There are dozens of speeches to cover, interviews to conduct, and places to be at. Some of these assignments can throw up surprises and involve quick turnarounds. All reporters prepare meticulously before elections, but regardless of the effort, something or the other tends to happen which changes the course of our coverage. In short, we always have to be prepared for the unexpected too.

For instance, just ahead of the polls, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal was arrested. This was an unprecedented event that none of us foresaw. On the day of the arrest, I was having a slow news day. But as updates of the Enforcement Directorate reaching the Chief Minister's residence came in, I rushed to the site with my colleagues and saw him being taken away. The arrest landed the Aam Aadmi Party in a crisis and changed its campaign, likely made a difference to public opinion, and affected our coverage of the elections in the capital too.

There were also days when I found myself unprepared to deal with the contradictions in narratives or unable to trace the source of a narrative or belief. In northeast Delhi, for instance, where riots broke out in early 2020 over the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019, several people I spoke to recounted a particular narrative against the Congress's candidate, Kanhaiya Kumar. People dismissed him as the leader of the "tukde tukde gang" – a pejorative catchphrase used to refer to groups allegedly supporting sedition and secessionism – but when asked where they had heard this, many of them did not have a proper answer.

Similarly, while researching and writing about the candidates in the fray, I realised that it was difficult to take a call on which aspects about them were important, which ones were unimportant and avoidable, and which ones were perhaps unimportant but still interesting.

Additionally, we reporters must also deal with the fact that there are certain aspects or events in a person's life that cannot be written about due to several factors. For instance, the candidate may have faced a case years ago. But if that case was withdrawn later, do you include it? Similarly, it can be tricky to write about personal details that shaped the candidate's motivations.

One day, despite doing my research and discovering crucial details about the candidates buried in larger stories, I was still caught off guard. During an interview, I asked the candidate many personal questions, including what he does when he takes breaks from campaigning. When I asked him about his children, he paused, unable to speak. I did not realise that he had lost his child. A member of his team answered instead. I quickly changed the subject and we moved back to talking about politics.

Most importantly, I was unaware of the impact of some of these stories on readers. Journalists spend their lives chasing stories, with little time to really look back at the previous day or report. We file so many stories that we even forget about them sometimes. But readers don't forget. Stories, I have come to know, can even change their mind about a particular issue or person. I learned this one day when a reader called me and said, "The profiles you are writing for the candidates in my constituency will decide who I vote for."

To hear that was thrilling, albeit daunting. Since that phone call, while interviewing candidates, I have tried even harder to put myself in the shoes of the people of the constituency and ask questions that the voters may want answered.

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PICTURE OF THE WEEK

Waiting for water

A shepherd pours water for a herd of goats in Malleswaram in Nagarkurnool district of Telangana. India has been in the grip of a severe heatwave. NAGARA GOPAL

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO MAY 31, 1974

Indians for South African Army

Cape Town, May 30: Representatives of the 700,00 South African Indian community have welcomed the announcement that Indians may become part of the South African defence force. A statement has been issued by the Prime Minister, Mr. B.K. Vorster, saying: "The Government has decided to establish a social service battalion for Indians on similar lines to that of the coloureds."

The Indian service battalion will provisionally be established on Salisbury island as a unit of the Navy. Training of the first Indians will begin in January next year.

Mr. J.N. Reddy, Chairman of the South African Indian Council, said: "We welcome with high praise the decision taken by the Government. This is a step in the right direction. We (Indians) feel part of South Africa."

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO MAY 31, 1924

Strike at Tinnevely

Trichinopoly, May 31: The South Indian Railway firemen and cleaners have struck work at Trichinopoly on Friday noon. Similar strikes are also reported from Tanjore where it began at 4 p.m. yesterday. The Reserve Police are guarding the junction platform and railway sheds. The ex firemen are being called in of whom about half a dozen have already been registered. The duplicate Trivandrum Express left Trichinopoly with Mr. Vierra, Assistant Traffic Superintendent acting as firemen.

From Page One

Campaign season ends; last lap to decide 57 seats

During the campaign in the battleground State of West Bengal, while the Trinamool Congress kept the focus on its welfare schemes, including 'Lakshmir Bhandar', through which women above 60 years are given ₹1,000 per month, the BJP, which is the main challenger, spoke about the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA). The BJP also attacked the Trinamool government on the issues of corruption and the State teachers' recruitment scam.

In Bihar, RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav was the star campaigner, who held 251 public meetings, sometimes even in a wheelchair.

In Odisha, the campaign ended during which Mr. Modi questioned CM and BJD supremo Naveen Patnaik's health. The BJD chief hit back, saying Mr. Modi was just "trying to garner votes."

I didn't single out any community: Manmohan

Dr. Singh didn't mention the remark about the community in his letter. Mr. Modi, at a public meeting in Rajasthan, had claimed that Dr. Singh said (in 2006) "Muslims had the first claim on the country's resources".

Pointing out that in the past ten years, the BJP government has left no stone unturned in castigating "Punjab, Punjabis and Punjabiyat", Dr. Singh said that 750 farmers, mostly belonging to Punjab, were martyred while incessantly waiting at Delhi borders (during protests against now repealed farm laws), for months together.

"As if the lathis and the rubber bullets were not enough, none less than the Prime Minister verbally assaulted our farmers by calling them *Andolanjeevis* and *Parjeevi* (Parasites) on the floor of the Parliament. Their only demand was the withdrawal of the three farm laws imposed on them without consulting them," he said, adding that the BJP policies have eroded the earnings of farmers.

Dr. Singh said the nation's economy has witnessed unimaginable turmoil during BJP's regime. "The imposition of the demonetisation disaster, a flawed GST, and the painful mismanagement during the COVID pandemic has resulted in a miserable situation... Unprecedented unemployment and unbridled inflation have greatly widened inequality, which is now at a 100-year high... the misrule of the BJP government has resulted in the depletion of household savings to a historic 47-year low... There are 30 lakh government vacancies," he said.

He added that the BJP government imposed an ill-conceived Agniveer Scheme on our Armed Forces. "The BJP thinks that the value of patriotism, bravery and service is only four years. This shows their fake nationalism. Those who trained for regular recruitment were woefully betrayed by the outgoing regime. The youth of Punjab, the son of the farmer, who dreams of serving the motherland through the Armed Forces, is now thinking twice about getting recruited only for a four-year stint. Agniveer Scheme endangers National Security. The Congress party has therefore promised to abolish the Agniveer Scheme," Dr. Singh said.

Monsoon sets in over Kerala and Northeast

Marking the arrival: Dark clouds hover over the Grove Beach at Kovalam in Thiruvananthapuram on Thursday. PTI

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

The southwest monsoon set in over Kerala on Thursday, two days before the normal day of onset and a day before the forecast date of May 31, the India Meteorological Department said in a statement.

In an unusual turn, the monsoon also simultaneously set in over northeastern India. The monsoon system has two branches – the Arabian Sea branch and the Bay of Bengal branch.

The onset of the monsoon is defined with the Arabian Sea branch setting in over Kerala, which is usually June 1 and the other, setting in by June 5.

The two branches eventually merge over Central India and sustain the southwest monsoon until September.

This time however, partly under the influence of Cyclone Remal that made landfall in Bangladesh, the eastern branch arrived in Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh and most parts of Tripura, Meghalaya and Assam on May 30, the IMD noted. Several of these States have already reported heavy rainfall following the cyclone. While rare, a simultaneous onset is not unusual. Since 1990, such an onset has been reported in 1991, 1995, 1997, 2017 and now in 2024, according to data from the IMD.

D.S. Pai, senior meteorologist, IMD, Delhi, said that unlike for the onset over Kerala, there are no defined criteria for onset over the Northeastern States. "We have to evaluate the rainfall and check for strong southerly winds. There have been years in the past when the onset over Northeast India has preceded Kerala (2000 and 2003)."

22 passengers killed as bus skids into a gorge in Jammu

The vehicle was carrying passengers from Hathras in Uttar Pradesh for the Shiv Khori yatra in Reasi district; 57 injured are under treatment at Akhnoor hospital and Jammu medical college

The Hindu Bureau
JAMMU

At least 22 passengers were killed and 57 injured after a bus rolled down a deep gorge in the Akhnoor area of Jammu on Thursday afternoon.

"Twenty-two persons have died in this accident. At present, 57 injured are under treatment at Government Medical College, Jammu, and at the Sub-District Hospital (SDH), Akhnoor," Sachin Kumar Vaishya, District Magistrate, Jammu, said.

He initiated a magisterial inquiry into the cause of the accident. "An Additional District Magistrate, Jammu, shall submit a report within seven days," an official spokesman said.

The district administration is in communication with the authorities in Hathras and Aligarh, from where most of the passengers hailed from.

Tense moments: Rescue operation under way in the Akhnoor area of Jammu on Thursday. PTI

The accident took place near Chungi Morh on the Jammu-Poonch highway. The vehicle, which rolled down into the gorge for a distance of around 200 meters, was badly damaged. "The bus, carrying passengers from Hathras, Uttar Pradesh, met with an accident near Tanda, Akhnoor, in Jammu," an official said earlier. The passengers were headed for the Shiv Khori yatra in Reasi district.

President Droupadi Murmu expressed grief over the accident. "Pained beyond words to learn about the loss of lives in a bus accident in #Akhnoor near Jammu. My deepest condolences to the bereaved families. I wish speedy recovery of the injured," the President said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed his anguish over the loss of lives in Akhnoor. "My thoughts are with those who have lost their loved ones. I pray that the injured recover soon," Mr. Modi said on X.

He announced ₹2 lakh as ex gratia for the next of kin of the deceased, and ₹50,000 for the injured.

J&K Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha expressed grief. "The bus accident in Akhnoor, Jammu, is heartrending. I condole the loss of lives and pray to the Almighty to give the bereaved families the strength to bear the irreparable loss. Praying for the speedy recovery of the injured," Mr. Sinha said. He directed the administration "to provide all possible assistance to the bereaved families".

16 Army men booked for attacking a police station in Kupwara

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

Sixteen Army personnel, including three Lieutenant-Colonels, have been named in a first information report (FIR) for allegedly barging into a police station and beating up and kidnapping policemen in Kupwara of north Kashmir on May 28. Four policemen sustained injuries in the clash and have been admitted to a Srinagar hospital.

The violence was caught on camera. In the video, Army men can be seen entering the police station, and dragging and thrashing the policemen. The incident took place around 9.40 p.m. on a day that the police had searched the house of a local Territorial Army man in connection with a case, taking him into custody. "A huge number of armed and uniformed personnel of 160 Territorial Army led by Lieutenant-Colonel Ankit Sood, Lieutenant-Colonel Rajiv Chauhan and Lieutenant-Colonel Nikhil unauthorisedly entered the premises of the Police Station, Kupwara," the FIR said.

"Upon seeing the arrival of the police units and senior police officers, the alleged personnel and officers of 160 Territorial Army led by the Lieutenant-Colonels brandished their weapons, snatched the mobile phones of the injured police personnel and Station House Officer, Kupwara, Inspector Mohmmad Ishaq," it said.

The Army men also abducted Head Constable Ghulam Rasool, the FIR said. Official sources said that the Territorial Army man earlier taken into custody by the police were taken away from the station.

The J&K Police said the case is being investigated.

The Army has not commented on the FIR. However, a Srinagar-based defence spokesperson said that the reports of an altercation between police and Army personnel "were incorrect".

Loss of civilian lives in Rafah 'heartbreaking', a matter of serious concern, says MEA

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

The loss of Palestinian lives in the recent Israeli bombing of Rafah is "heartbreaking", India said on Thursday.

Nearly 45 Palestinians, including children, were killed when Israeli bombs hit tents housing displaced persons in Rafah on May 26. The Indian stand on the carnage was shared by the official spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs, Randhir Jaiswal, during the weekly press briefing.

He also highlighted that India had recognised the Palestinian state way back in the late 1980s.

"The heartbreaking loss of civilian lives in the displacement camp in Rafah is a matter of deep concern. We have consistently called for protection of civilian population and respect for international humanitarian law in the ongoing conflict. We also note that the Israeli side has already accepted responsibility for it as a tragic accident and announced an investigation into the incident," said Mr. Jaiswal.

Randhir Jaiswal

The bombing of the tents heightened the global outrage against the ongoing Israeli campaign in the Gaza Strip. This incident coincided with Spain, Ireland and Norway granting recognition to the Palestinian state.

"We have long supported a two-state solution, which entails the establishment of a sovereign, viable, and independent state of Palestine within recognised and mutually agreed borders, living side by side with Israel in peace," said Mr. Jaiswal when asked about the move by Ireland, Norway and Spain.

'Objective view'

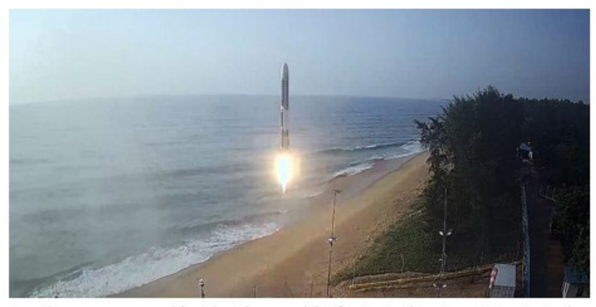
Mr. Jaiswal also took note of the remarks by former Pakistan PM Nawaz Sharif that Islamabad had violated the 1999 Lahore pact signed by PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Mr. Sharif on February 21, 1999, However, months later, the Kargil war broke out.

"You are aware of our position on the issue. We note that there is an objective view emerging in Pakistan as well on this matter," Mr. Jaiswal said.

Start-up Agnikul launches world's first rocket with fully 3D-printed engine

Sangeetha Kandavel
CHENNAI

The Chennai-headquartered space start-up Agnikul Cosmos Private Ltd. launched the world's first rocket – Agnibaan Sub Orbital Technology Demonstrator (SOrTeD) – with a single-piece 3D-printed engine from Sriharikota at 7.15 a.m. on Thursday.



Agnibaan, powered by the the world's first single-piece 3D-printed rocket engine, launched from Sriharikota on Thursday. ANI

Agnibaan SOrTeD is India's first launch from a private launchpad, called 'Dhanush', established by Agnikul. It is also India's first semi-cryogenic engine-powered rocket launch and the world's first single-piece 3D-printed engine designed and built indigenously.

According to the start-up, the key purpose of this mission is to serve as a test flight, to demonstrate in-house and homegrown technologies, gather crucial flight data and ensure optimal functioning of systems for Agnikul's orbital launch vehicle, the 'Agnibaan'.

"Congratulations @AgnikulCosmos for the successful launch of the Agnibaan SoRTed-01 mission from their launch pad. A major milestone, as the first-ever controlled flight of a semi-cryogenic liquid engine realised through additive manufacturing," the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) posted on X, following the launch.

The IIT-Madras incubated start-up had originally planned the launch for April 7 but had to postpone it 129 seconds before the lift-off due to some technical glitches. PM Narendra Modi took to X and called this a remarkable feat which will make the entire nation proud.

'Record-breaking' temperature in Delhi might have been due to faulty device

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

The unprecedented temperature of 52.9 Celsius reported in Delhi on May 29 is likely to have been due to a reading from a faulty instrument, and not a weather phenomenon. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) is conducting an investigation into the matter, *The Hindu* has learnt from conversations with multiple senior officials in the department.

With Delhi and several parts of North India reeling under an intense heatwave, Wednesday's reading suggested that Delhi had broken a temperature ceiling that had not been breached even in western Rajasthan, which is usually a region of recording-breaking temperatures.

The reading reported out of a single station in Delhi's Mungeshpur was a large three-degree rise from that of the previous day's (May 28) reading at the station of 49.9 degrees Celsius.

Scorching plight: Wednesday's reading suggested that Delhi had broken a temperature ceiling. AFP

The weather station at Mungeshpur is an automatic weather station (AWS), one of 16 such stations deployed by the agency to measure variations in temperature, humidity, and rainfall across Delhi. Deployed only since 2022, they work differently from the IMD's five "departmental" or manually operated weather stations that have been the official source of Delhi's weather since decades. The manual weather stations have people reading a traditional thermometer to measure and report temperatures four times a day. While the AWS relies on sensors (thermistors) and generates meteorological values on demand, and the information is made available on the agency's website on an hourly basis.

While the AWSs are extremely accurate, durable and consistent, experts say that the IMD does not yet have all-round expertise on these instruments.

"If at least one or two of the 21 weather stations had reported a temperature of at least 50 [degrees Celsius], then such a reading of 52.9 would still be considered plausible," a senior meteorologist from the organisation told *The Hindu*. "While manual observations and thermometers are well understood, the AWSs are more complex instruments. While very accurate, they may, like any other instrument, be prone to error and go undetected for a while. This is a learning experience for us."

A "thorough test and investigation is under way" before a conclusion can be drawn, M. Mohapatra, Director-General, IMD, told *The Hindu*. If the instrument at Mungeshpur was faulty, there was no indication over previous days that its readings were off, the official said.

"The maximum temperature over Delhi NCR varied from 45.2 degrees Celsius to 49.1 degrees Celsius in different parts of the city. Mungeshpur reported 52.9°C as an outlier. It could be due to an error in the sensor or the local factor. IMD is examining the data and sensors," the weather body's statement on Wednesday noted.

Indian peacekeeper gets U.N. award on gender advocacy

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Major Radhika Sen, an Indian peacekeeper deployed in Congo, was awarded the U.N. Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award for 2023 for her work supporting conflict-affected communities. The award was presented to her by U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres on Thursday.

Major Sen served in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) from March 2023 to April 2024 as the Commander of the engagement platoon for the Indian rapid deployment battalion. She led a team of 20 women soldiers and 10 male soldiers.

Mr. Guterres described her service as "a true credit to the UN as a whole". Major Sen said that the award was special as it gives a recognition to the hard work put in by the peacekeepers working in the challenging environment of DRC.

APPEAL

Baby MD Alif Khan Son of MD Polas Khan 7 months admitted in Manipal Hospitals, is suffering from Congenital Heart Diseases Large PM VSD Shunting L-R, severe PAH. He requires to undergo VSD Surgery to prevent irreversible damage to the vital organs of his body. The estimated cost of the surgery is **Rs.4,00,000/-.**

Please send donation however small and save the baby. Cheque/D.D/M.O. favouring **Save Poor Lives** A/c MD Alif Khan. **Our Account Details:** S/B Account No. 20000913487. State Bank of India, R.A. Puram and IFSC CODE: SBIN0001855, you can donate through Google Pay No. **9884607377**, UPI ID: **savepoorlives@oksbi**. All donations are exempted under 80G of I.T. ACT.

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ELECTIONS 2024

PM remark on Gandhiji shocking: NC

National Conference (NC) president Farooq Abdullah Thursday described Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent remarks on Mahatma Gandhi as "shocking".

He said, "Modi*ji* says [Mahatma] Gandhi got recognition after a film was made on him! It's shocking."

"His [Gandhi*ji*] statues are present all over the world and our Prime Minister forgot that India's Independence has a great contribution from Gandhi. Both Modi and Gandhi belong to Gujarat and yet, the PM feels shame in praising Gandhi," he added.

He also said he could not forget the sacrifices made by Gandhiji for the country and that "he [Gandhiji] wanted Hindus and Muslims to live together happily, but the PM is widening the gap between the two communities". PTI

National Conference Party president Farooq Abdullah at a poll rally. ANI

HC rejects plea seeking Modi's disqualification

The Delhi High Court on Thursday dismissed a petition seeking disqualification of Prime Minister Narendra Modi from contesting the Lok Sabha election, saying the allegations levelled are vague, reckless and unsubstantiated.

"Perusal of the petition reveals that the same is replete with vague, unsubstantiated and reckless allegations. Not only are the pleadings inchoate but the tenor of the same is demonstrative of the fact that the petition is tainted with mala fide and oblique motives," it said. The plea by Captain Deepak Kumar alleged that Mr. Modi and his accomplices attempted to destabilise national security by planning a fatal crash of an Air India flight in 2018 which the petitioner commanded as a pilot.

"BJP's attitude was totally dictatorial in this poll. Cong. took a decision to focus on people's issues... we treated this election as 'poor versus rich'

K.C. VENUGOPAL
Congress leader

INDIA may pick PM in less than 48 hours: Jairam

The INDIA bloc will get a "decisive mandate" and may take less than 48 hours to decide on its Prime Ministerial pick, Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said on Thursday. He said the party which gets the maximum seats in the alliance will be a "natural claimant" for its leadership. PTI

"The *shezada* of Cong. is bent upon conducting survey of property...which implies that heavy tax will be imposed on ancestral properties

YOGI ADITYANATH
Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister

Battle to gain ground: Anjani Soren, Jharkhand Mukti Morcha candidate for the Mayurbhanj Lok Sabha constituency in Odisha. BISWARANJAN ROUT

In Odisha, Anjani Soren wages a lone battle to keep JMM afloat

Satyasundar Barik
GHODADEGA (ODISHA)

Sitting on a *charpoy* in a quaint, sprawling clay-roof house in this nondescript village, a middle-aged woman instructs a group of men to spread out and reignite the spirit of unifying tribal persons under the banner of the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM), aiming to make it the preferred party once more in Odisha's Mayurbhanj district.

Anjani Soren, daughter of JMM patriarch Shibu Soren and sister of former Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren, is waging a lone battle to keep the JMM afloat in Odisha despite personal setbacks.

Ms. Soren stayed devoted to her family until the death of her husband, Debananda Marandi of Ghodadega village in Mayurbhanj, in 2017. It was around this time that her political career took off. Despite her short tenure in politics, she has taken on the challenge of reviving the JMM, which has been plagued by frequent defections.

"My husband had perhaps seen a spark of a political career in me. Before his death, he encouraged me to run in the zilla parishad election in 2017. Subsequently, I contested the 2019 Lok Sabha election from Mayurbhanj and finished third. I hope to perform better this time," she said.

Ms. Soren is contesting the Mayurbhanj Lok Sabha seat and the Saraskana Assembly seat. She is supported by the Congress, the JMM's partner in the INDIA bloc. Besides her candidacy in Saraskana, the JMM has fielded candidates in four other Assembly seats.

Ghodadega, home of her husband's parents, is just 3 km from the in-laws' home of President Droupadi Murmu. Despite this proximity, Ms. Soren is not overwhelmed by Ms. Murmu's influence in the locality.

"President Murmu's election was part of the BJP's grand plan to be seen as champion of tribal cause, aimed at garnering tribal votes. Has it benefited people as a whole? Women continue to sell leaf plates and raw plant branches used as toothbrush," she said.

In 2019, the JMM leader finished third by securing 1,35,552 votes, 11.78% of the votes polled.

How did she manage to poll over one lakh votes in her maiden Lok Sabha election? "My father had built a political movement in Mayurbhanj and Sundargarh districts of Odisha. I was benefited by his efforts. I have been in regular touch with party cadres during the past five years," she said.

Asked about Mr. Hemant's arrest and its potential impact on her campaign, she said, "Hemant Soren*ji* was arrested as part of a political conspiracy. It has got resonance in this tribal-dominated region. I deeply feel his absence as a leader and brother. However, this will not hinder my determination to keep the JMM flag flying high."

Ms. Soren is pitted against Sudam Marndi, State's Revenue and Disaster Management Minister and Biju Janata Dal leader. He was elected to the Lok Sabha from Mayurbhanj on JMM ticket in 2004. Her other opponent, BJP candidate Naba Charan Majhi, also has his roots in the JMM movement.

Sandeshkhali, the river island buffeted by a political cyclone

Villagers talk about alleged atrocities in hushed tones following sting videos questioning the veracity of the accusations in a politicised atmosphere; the BJP has pitched it as a women's issue and the Trinamool terms the allegations 'propaganda'

GROUND REPORT

Shiv Sahay Singh
SANDESHKHALI

The riverine island of Sandeshkhali in the Basirhat Lok Sabha constituency remains tense ahead of polling day on June 1. Since allegations of land grabbing and sexual assault were levelled against a group of local Trinamool Congress leaders, Sandeshkhali has been witness to widespread protests; signs of violence are still evident from villagers' attacks against the now-suspended Trinamool leaders, including at the poultry farm of Shiboprasad Hazra.

Over the past three months, however, the whole island has also been decked up with the flags of political parties and poll-related graffiti. The villagers still talk about the alleged atrocities by former Trinamool leader Sheikh Shahjahan and his aides, Mr. Hazra and Uttam Gayen, but in hushed tones.

"Initially, when the movement against the Trinamool leaders erupted, people were united against them. Now, people have taken sides and whole thing has become political," said Nitai Das, an islander.

In fact, even the political party workers swelling party offices on the island in the run-up to polling day are unwilling to speak on record after a series of sting videos, which have triggered suspicions regarding the veracity of the sexual assault allegations.

"How do I know that you are not secretly recording it and will publish it as a sting video," a BJP supporter asked. The Trinamool leadership has been able to counter the allegations of land grab and sexual abuse on account of these sting videos, which show a local BJP leader and some women questioning the truth of the allegations.

The BJP, however, has staked its campaign around the allegations. The Central investigating agencies have been quick to take action and filed a chargesheet against Mr. Shahjahan in the three months since his arrest on February 29 by the West Bengal Police. The BJP's candidate from the Basirhat seat is Rekha Patra, a 30-year-old political debutant who was one of the women who accused the local Trinamool leaders of committing atrocities in Sandeshkhali.

Key fight: The battle for Basirhat, a constituency bordering Bangladesh, has now become a prestige fight for the BJP and the Trinamool. Sandeshkhali comes under the constituency. DEBASISH BHADURI

Modi's gesture

Not only has Prime Minister Narendra Modi reached out to Ms. Patra by telephone, calling her a *Shakti Swaroopa*, or symbol of strength, but he also recently singled her out at a public meeting, lauding her oratory skills and declaring that he wants such people in Parliament.

In fact, the BJP has shaped its campaign for the entire State around the Sandeshkhali narrative, with the party's top leadership raking up the allegations in every public meeting and pitching it as a women's issue.

Almost 50% of the West Bengal electorate, about 3.73 crore voters, are women.

The battle for Basirhat, a constituency bordering Bangladesh, has now become a prestige fight for both the BJP and the Trinamool. The State's ruling party has dubbed the allegations "misinformation and propaganda", and highlighted its own initiatives dedicated to women, including cash incentive schemes such as Lakshmir Bhandar and Kanyashree.

After months, the Trinamool has finally opened its own party office in Sandeshkhali. Bhatka Das, a Trinamool supporter who had once publicly accused his own party leaders of alleged atrocities, is busy arranging voter slips for a last minute door-to-door campaign. Trinamool supporters say that since action has been taken against those who were alleged to have committed atrocities, voters should support the ruling party in the election. Mr. Shahjahan and his aides have been arrested, but so were local BJP and CPI(M) supporters, who were only released after the intervention of the Calcutta High Court.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, who has campaigned for her party's Basirhat candidate Haji Nurul Islam, has said that she will visit Sandeshkhali once her party candidate wins the Lok Sabha seat.

As tensions continue to hold sway, security forces deployed for election duty have arrived at the island. As the island prepares to vote on Friday, the outcome of the election here is likely to continue to dominate the State's politics in the weeks to come.

V.K. Pandian is not my successor, says Patnaik

Satyasundar Barik
BHUBANESWAR

With the BJP going all guns blazing by converting Odia *asmita* (pride) into a major poll plank targeting Tamil Nadu-born former bureaucrat V.K. Pandian, Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Friday said his close confidant would not be his successor.

"I can't understand these exaggerations. You have noticed he [Mr. Pandian] is not standing for this election. He is not my successor. I see all of these as exaggerations and falsehood," Mr. Patnaik said.

Asked about Mr. Pandian taking all decisions on his behalf, Mr. Patnaik said, "That is ridiculous. I have said this often before this is an old allegation. It holds no weight". He said: "I have said the succession will be decided by the people of the State. That is the natural result of these things." He said, "They [BJP] are getting more and more desperate particularly as their popularity is waning in the country."

However, he did not rule out the possibility of reconciling with the BJP after the elections. When asked if the acrimony between BJP and BJD in the election campaigning has shut the door for extending support if NDA needs it in the post-poll scenario, he said: "I have never shown acrimony to anyone in public life. When support is required, we will judge our appropriate position."

Save us from the drug menace, Punjab villagers tell parties

A.M. Jigeesh
BATHINDA

Dalits and landless agriculture workers in Punjab, who make up about 32% of Punjab's population, have mainly two demands to whoever forms the next government at the Centre – take strong measures to curb drug trade and expand and strengthen the Public Distribution System (PDS).

Fatuhi Wala and Singhe Wala villages in Muktsar district come under the Bathinda Lok Sabha constituency. The villages, situated about 10 km from Badal village, the home village of Shiromani Akali Dal candidate and former Union Minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal, have been struggling with the drug issue.

Agriculture worker Birpal Kaur and her sister Charanjeet Kaur have suffered the most from the problem. Ms. Birpal lost her son and Ms. Charanjeet lost two of her sons in the past seven-and-a-half months to drug abuse. Ms. Charanjeet is a widow and stays with her sister and brother-in-law Sahi Ram. Drug trade must stop, the Kaurs say. No family should suffer like we suffered, they add.

The family works with the big landlords in the village and are landless labourers. Mr. Ram is on an early contract of ₹1.2 lakh a year with the landlord and should complete whatever agricultural works assigned to him. With the mechanisation of agriculture, they do not have many jobs in the village, which has nearly 200 such agriculture workers.

Seeking strong measures: Women agriculture workers at Kotguru village in Bathinda. A.M. JIGEESH

Minimum rate

"There is a floor minimum rate for agriculture workers in the State. We get about ₹400 a day, including food. If it's without food, the amount is ₹350," say Kala Singh and Makhan Singh, two other labourers, who are also associated with the Punjab Kher Mazdoor Union (PKMU) that organises landless agriculture workers.

Mr. Sahi Ram has been working with the landlords since he was a child. "We haven't received any help from the government in healthcare, education of children or for the construction of this house. We have Ayushman cards, but have not used any benefits yet," he said, adding that the remuneration is not increasing the way prices have risen for vegetables and groceries.

The Kaurs also work as domestic helpers at the houses of landlords and earn about ₹6,000 a month. They also go for work under the MGNREGS. "We never received work for 100 days. At the most, we got about 40 days of work in some years," Ms. Kaur said.

Microfinancing companies are the main loan providers for these agriculture workers. Their interest range between 18% and 60%. "These micro financing companies make groups of women and authorise the leader of the group to pay back the loan," said Ashwini, a leader of the Naujawan Bharat Sabha, an organisation that works among youngsters.

"A number of youngsters have died in this area from drug abuse. Five or six of them are under treatment. This is rampant particularly among the families of agriculture workers. Most of them cannot afford *chitta* [a synthetic drug made from heroin popular in Punjab], but they use some other varieties of chemicals available widely in the State. Whichever government comes at the Centre, they must take the strongest possible measures to stop drug trade. Youngsters are dying. There should be jobs so that we all can survive," Ms. Ashwini added.

Cotton cultivation

In Kotguru village, near Bathinda, agriculture workers are mainly engaged in labour-intensive cotton cultivation.

The women workers used to earn up to ₹500 a day during the harvest season that lasts for about two-and-a-half months. Now, the area no longer cultivates cotton due to the pink bollworm pest attack. Sandeep Kaur and Balwant Kaur were earlier agriculture workers who were experts in harvesting and processing cotton. Now both of them work in a liquor factory nearby. "There is no other way as cotton cultivation has stopped," they said.

Mahendra Singh and Gurlal Singh of the same village used to be tractor drivers in the cotton fields. They too lost their jobs and are now working in a shop in Bathinda to make ends meet. The village too has seen victims of drugs and the villagers, particularly women, have been demanding strongest measures against drugs.

"*Drug band hojae. Hume aur kuchh nahi chahie* [We don't need anything else, the drugs should be banned]," said Sandeep Kaur.

Elderly women in Kotguru say that PDS is very important for their survival. "Earlier we used to get 30 kg of wheat per person for ₹2 per kilogram. Now we don't get anything from the State, but we get 5 kg of wheat per person for free. We really don't know when they are going to stop it," said Jaspal Kaur, demanding that more items should be included in the Public Distribution System.

"PDS should be a right and should not be treated as a scheme," Ms. Kaur said, and added that parties talk a lot, but do not do anything for the poor.

INBRIEF

Chhota Rajan gets life term for 2001 murder of hotelier

A special Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA) court in Mumbai on Thursday sentenced gangster Chhota Rajan to rigorous life imprisonment in the case pertaining to the murder of hotelier Jaya Shetty in 2001. Special judge A.M. Patil held the gangster guilty under Sections 302 (murder) and 120B (criminal conspiracy) of the Indian Penal Code, and under provisions of the MCOCA. The court also found Rajan and four others guilty of conspiring to kill Shetty, who was the owner of four restaurants in Mumbai, including the Golden Crown restaurant on Grant Road. The court sentenced the underworld gangster to rigorous life imprisonment, along with a fine of ₹16 lakh.

Teen's blood sample may have been replaced with mother's

The recent luxury car accident in Pune that resulted in the deaths of two young IT professionals took yet another turn after it emerged that the blood sample of the accused 17-year-old may have been replaced with that of his mother by doctors at the city's Sassoon General Hospital. According to government and police sources, the blood samples of two other occupants in the car at the time of the May 19 crash were also replaced at the hospital by blood samples of their kin in order to get the drunken teenagers (including the accused 17-year-old driver) off the hook. Two doctors and a staffer have been arrested in the case.

Modi addressed 206 public events during the long-drawn campaign

Low turnout in early phases posed challenge to BJP; during campaign, BJP claimed that Congress sought quota based on religion; party campaigned aggressively in West Bengal and Odisha

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

After 82 days stretched across seven phases, campaigning for the Lok Sabha election wrapped up on Thursday with Prime Minister Narendra Modi leading the BJP in its bid for a third successive term.

According to sources in the Prime Minister's Office, the marathon campaign saw Mr. Modi address 206 rallies – often in searing, record-breaking heat – with that number also including other events and roadshows, an oft-deployed feature of his campaign strategy. He also gave over 80 interviews to a cross-section of media organisations. His senior Cabinet colleagues also put in hard work: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh addressed 101 public events including 94 rallies and seven roadshows, and Home Minister Amit Shah took part in 188 public engagements.

For the BJP, the challenge during this campaign came largely from within. The heat and party workers' complacency over the BJP's prospects of winning the polls contributed to low voter turnout, something that party leaders, warned against throughout the campaign.

Hectic days: Narendra Modi takes part in a Ganga *aarti* in Varanasi before filing his nomination on May 14. SANDEEP SAXENA

Early on in the campaign, the BJP faced a backlash after Uttara Kannada MP Anant Hegde said that the party's slogan of getting more than 400 Lok Sabha seats was important as "big constitutional changes" required a two-thirds majority. This statement was widely interpreted as a bid to change the Constitution to remove reservations.

"Two phases of polls demonstrated that this issue was gaining traction on the ground and had to be countered. Which is why you saw Mr. Modi declare that the BJP had no intention of ending reservations," a senior party leader said.

The BJP then went on to attack the Congress on what it called the party's "minority appeasement" politics, saying the party's manifesto indicated that it was open to reservations on the basis of religion, or a so-called "Muslim quota". The Congress manifesto does not say this.

Caste equations

It was not all big rallies and narrative building; micro-management efforts also played a role in the BJP's campaign. For instance, Mr. Shah was responsible for a careful balancing of the caste equations in eastern Uttar Pradesh. Meetings with Raghuraj Pratap Singh, alias Raja bhaiyya; Narad Rai, a strongman in Ballia; and the withdrawal of Shrikala Reddy Singh from contesting the Jaunpur seat on BSP ticket were all part of this micro management.

The BJP also showed its aggression in the eastern States of West Bengal and Odisha.

As the campaign wrapped up, the Prime Minister made his way to Kanniyakumari for a three-day stint of meditation at the Vivekananda Rock Memorial.

'PM spoke on divisive issues 421 times, no mention of inflation'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Mallikarjun Kharge

Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke about "mandir-masjid" and other "divisive issues" 421 times, but did not mention unemployment and inflation even once in his election speeches of the past 15 days, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said here on Thursday.

Addressing a press conference at the party headquarters along with senior leaders Jairam Ramesh and K.C. Venugopal, Mr. Kharge said the people would give a clear mandate for a new, inclusive government on June 4.

In these elections, Mr. Kharge addressed over 100 rallies, 20 press conferences and more than 50 interviews, while former party chief Rahul Gandhi addressed 107 rallies, roadshows, and interactions such as Nyay Sammelans and Nyay Manch. Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra addressed over 108 public meetings and roadshows, and spent over 10 days to focus on the campaign in Rae Bareli and Amethi seats of Uttar Pradesh.

Mr. Kharge said people had now endorsed the Opposition's contention that "it will be the end of democracy if the present government gets another term". "The PM and other important leaders of the BJP made countless efforts to mislead the people on religious and divisive issues. Despite this, the people chose issues and we asked for votes on issues," he said. "We are confident that people will give a mandate for an alternative government on June 4."

Mr. Kharge said the Prime Minister's attempt to link his party's manifesto to a particular community not only violated the model code of conduct but also lowered the dignity of the Prime Minister's Office. "The Prime Minister spoke on 'mandir-masjid', Muslim and other religions 421 times, talked of dividing society and mentioned words such as 'Muslim, Pakistan' 224 times," he said.

Asked about the INDIA meeting on Saturday, Mr. Venugopal said it would discuss a joint strategy for the counting day.

In its Sangrur bastion, voters ask questions of AAP over unfulfilled promises from 2022

Vikas Vasudeva
SANGRUR

Sangrur MP Simranjit Singh Mann during a public meeting in the constituency; and, right, AAP candidate Gurmeet Singh Meet Hayer addressing a public meeting in Malerkotla. X/@SIMRANJITSADA, X/@MEET_HAYER

As the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) toils hard to regain its stronghold of Sangrur, which it lost in a Lok Sabha byelection in 2022, the path to victory for the party this time appears to be paved with challenges. Sections of voters are annoyed with the AAP government in Punjab for the unkept promises made during the Assembly election in 2022. The Sangrur Lok Sabha constituency, the home turf of Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, is considered an AAP bastion as he had won the Lok Sabha seat in 2014 and 2019.

The AAP made its mark in Punjab with a thumping majority in the 2022 Assembly election. But within three months of assuming power, the party faced a major setback as it lost the byelection in the Sangrur Lok Sabha constituency to Simranjit Singh Mann, a radical Sikh leader of the Shiromani Akali Dal (Amritsar). The byelection was necessitated as the segment fell vacant after Mr. Mann won the Dhuri Assembly seat.

Need for health clinics

At Sehna village in Barnala, Ram Kumar, who runs a tea stall, is angry with the government. "Before the 2022 Assembly polls, they [AAP] promised to open Aam Aadmi clinics [*mohalla* clinics], so I was hoping that new clinics would come up, but actually what have they done? They [the government] have set up a clinic in the already existing building of my village's primary health centre. They think people are fools, but it's not the case. People can see through their intentions. But I am still hopeful as two-and-a-half years are left for the State government," he says.

Nodding his head in agreement, Kulwinder Singh, a farmer, is however, happy with the State government's effort to provide uninterrupted electricity for his farm.

Malkit Kaur, the village head, confirmed that the clinic is being run in the already existing building of the primary health centre. "The health centre is around 70 years old. In the same building, the Aam Aadmi clinic was started last year," she says.

Gurbakhsish Singh, a farmer in Bhawanigarh town, said, "They [AAP] promised to provide minimum support price for crops if they came to power in Punjab. But now, they don't even talk about it. Why did they extend promises that they knew they couldn't fulfil? There is an anti-incumbency trend against the BJP and the AAP."

CM's promise

Mr. Mann, who on May 28 campaigned for Gurmeet Singh Meet Hayer in Dhuri, said "soon all the women in Punjab will get ₹1,100 a month instead of the promised ₹1,000".

Kartar Kaur, 65, from Bimber village, says the delay in giving the aid to women as promised by the AAP before the Assembly election has led to the belief that parties do not care about their pre-poll promises once they get power.

In Sangrur city, Harpreet Kaur, an assistant professor, says nothing has changed on the ground since the AAP came to power.

HC refuses protection to interfaith couple to marry under Special Marriage Act

Mehul Malpani
BHOPAL

Sarika Sen and Safee Khan moved court after they could not appear before the Marriage Officer

The marriage of a Muslim man and a Hindu woman, even if it is registered under the Special Marriage Act, is not valid, the Madhya Pradesh High Court has said while dismissing an interfaith couple's petition seeking protection and help in registering their marriage.

In a May 27 order, Justice G.S. Ahluwalia said, "As per Mahomedan law, the marriage of a Muslim boy with a girl who is an idolatress or a fire worshipper, is not a valid marriage. Even if the marriage is registered under the Special Marriage Act, the marriage would be no more a valid marriage and it would be an irregular (*fasid*) marriage."

"Under personal law, performance of certain rituals are necessary for solemnisation of marriage. However, if marriage is performed under Special Marriage Act, then such marriage cannot be challenged on the ground of non-performance of such mandatory rituals. But marriage under Special Marriage Act would not legalise the marriage which otherwise is prohibited under personal law," Justice Ahluwalia said.

Sarika Sen and Safee Khan, both aged 23 and residents of Madhya Pradesh's Anuppur district, had approached the court in April after they failed to appear for marriage before the Marriage Officer under the Special Marriage Act due to objections from the woman's family. "As a result, their marriage is not being registered," the couple said in their petition.

Apart from seeking security from local police, Ms. Sen and Mr. Khan also sought permission to be able to appear before the Marriage Officer and requested that the woman's family be directed not to file a kidnapping case against the man.

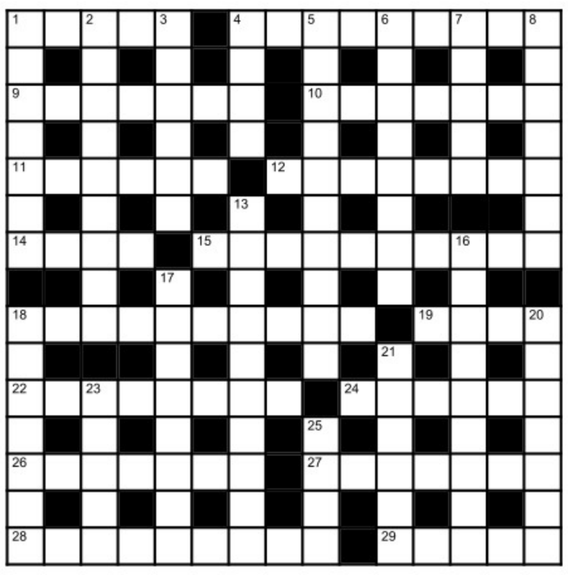
The couple's counsel said "the Special Marriage Act would override the personal law; therefore marriage of a Muslim boy with a Hindu girl would not be an irregular marriage".

TH CROSSWORD + 14189

(set by Gussalufz)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Assorted wet clothes — nothing left dry (5)
4 Place where we get hot, spicy momos, right around tea (5,4)
9 Very high old meter readjusted (7)
10 Fie! Must cut smoking dramatically (7)
11 Bloody awful chap (3,3)
12 Air conditioner rebate scrapped — this is to irritate (8)
14 In Honolulu, a unique Hawaiian feast (4)
15 Swami, great club! A great retreat, regularly featuring evergreen trees (10)
18 Zero degrees temperature interrupts music group's arrangements (10)
19 With just a little winding, this G.I. Joe dances (4)
22 Russian bodyguard on vacation has massages (8)
24 Time after time, a very personal artistic statement (6)
26 Vent angrily in restaurant, haggling over lousy eggless starters (7)
27 Wins over objective auditors (7)
28 Ann cheers free boosters (9)
29 Sing on the counter while Doyle pens (5)

Down

1 Target flotilla frequently carrying medic, perhaps (7)
2 Shy wife and husband limit sex (early morning, around close to four) (9)
3 Storming? Oi! We'll hide (3,3)
4 Ask for a kind of kebab that puts off hotel (4)
5 Bring feet on fire over broken faucet (10)
6 Setter's right about setter's statue? (8)
7 Regressive segment of media reported something dramatic (5)
8 Insect queen's parents (7)
13 Relative is weirdly energetic after drinking the last of soda (5-5)
16 TV show prompt in broadcasting doc with A.I. dirt (5,4)
17 Make merry with Dorothy's pal, in formal attire (2,2,4)
18 Many shots in pub frenzy (7)
20 Matrimonial: "Baby with one leaving for America?" (7)
21 Man, a royal dynasty frequently chosen? We're in trouble (6)
23 Announced dock arrival (5)
25 Checks out of five star around half past twelve, finally (4)

SUDOKU

					1		6	
			5	7		4		9
	6		4				5	
		4						8
9	5			2			1	4
8						3		
	9				4		2	
5		7		3	2			
	2		6					

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to previous puzzle

T	U	G	O	F	W	A	R		A	V	O	I	D	S
W		E		L		S		S		E		M		A
E	X	C	L	A	I	M		H	Y	D	R	A	N	T
N		K		G		A		A		I		G		A
T	O	O	L	S		D	E	D	U	C	T	I	O	N
Y		S		T		A		O				N		I
			F	A	L	S	E	W	I	T	N	E	S	S
S		M		F		A		M		A		D		M
T	W	E	L	F	T	H		N	I	G	H	T		
A		L				A		N		I		O		M
S	P	A	G	H	E	T	T	I		T	E	R	S	E
H		N		E		T		S		I		D		T
I	S	O	L	A	T	E		T	R	A	P	E	Z	E
N		M		R		R		E		N		A		O
G	I	A	N	T	S		W	R	E	S	T	L	E	R

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

2	5	3	1	7	4	6	9	8
6	4	7	8	9	2	5	1	3
8	1	9	6	5	3	2	4	7
4	9	5	7	3	1	8	6	2
7	6	1	5	2	8	9	3	4
3	8	2	9	4	6	1	7	5
9	2	8	3	1	7	4	5	6
5	3	4	2	6	9	7	8	1
1	7	6	4	8	5	3	2	9

FAITH

Service to Acharyas

People have certain restrictions to render divine service to God in this part of the universe. It is said that there are no such limitations in Srivaikunta. Sri Dehalesa Ramanujachariar Swamy said in a discourse that two kinds of service are essential. The first is service to God, and the other is service to Acharyas. Such people are called "*Charama parva nishtas*". The actual service lies in hearing good things and developing "*Aatma Jnanam*" (Jnana, Bhakthi and Vairagyam).

The term Acharya refers to Sri Nammazhwar and Sri Ramanuja. The Dwaya Mantra emphasises clinging to God's feet. How are the Acharyas considered the Ultimate? Sri Nammazhwar is God's manifestation, and Sri Ramanuja represents the sandals of Sri Nammazhwar. We must have an intense devotion to Acharyas. People need to connect with Sri Ramanuja (*Ramanuja Dasyam*), through which a connection to God can be established. Sri Annavappan Swamy authored "Sri Ramanuja Athi Manusha Sthavam," which narrates the extraordinary deeds of the Acharya. Among the various qualities, "*Soulabhyam*" is very much appreciated. It refers to mixing with ordinary people transcending down from status. It is said that those who surrender at the feet of Sri Ramanuja will derive the blessings of Lord Narayana.

INBRIEF

IDFC First Bank board okays ₹3,200-crore fundraise

IDFC First Bank on Thursday said its board approved a plan to raise ₹3,200 crore via preferential issue of shares to fund business growth. The board of the bank, at its meeting on Thursday, considered and approved to issue, offer and allot 39.68 crore shares of face value of ₹10 each fully paid-up, on a preferential basis, to the allottees at a price of ₹80.63 per equity share, amounting to ₹3,200 crore, IDFC First Bank said in a regulatory filing. PTI

Adani Total mulls adding plants in India for LNG import

Adani Total Pvt. Ltd., a joint venture between Adani Group and France's TotalEnergies, is considering building more plants in India to import liquefied natural gas (LNG) to meet the growing demand for the cleaner fuel, the firm's top boss said. The firm plans to double the capacity of its 5 million metric tonne-per-year Dhamra LNG terminal in eastern India, CEO Satinder Pal Singh said, adding the terminal is operating at about 52% capacity. REUTERS

'Rooftop solar installations fell 26% to 367 MW in Jan.-March'

Rooftop solar capacity installations in India registered a 26% year-on-year decline to 367 MW during the January-March period, mainly on account of rise in input cost, Mercom Capital said. India added 367 MW of rooftop solar in the March quarter. Installations fell almost 10% quarter-over-quarter from 406 MW and dropped more than 24% year-on-year from 485 MW, according to the report titled 'Q1 India Rooftop Solar Market.' PTI

RBI's income rises 17% to ₹2.75 lakh cr., spending falls 56%

Central bank's FY24 balance sheet swells 11% to ₹70,47,703.21 crore, RBI's Annual Report shows; reiterates projection for FY25 GDP growth at 7%

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) reported a 17% increase in FY24 income to ₹2,75,572.32 crore. Expenditure shrank 56.3% to ₹64,694.33 crore, from ₹1,48,037.04 crore in FY23, the RBI said in its annual report on Thursday.

The sharp drop in spending helped the RBI end the year with a transferable surplus of ₹2,10,873.99 crore, as against ₹87,416.22 crore in the previous year. Gains from foreign exchange transactions amounted to ₹83,615.86 crore, while interest income from foreign securities rose to ₹65,327.93 crore.

The size of the RBI's balance sheet increased by ₹7,02,946.97 crore, or 11%, to ₹70,47,703.21 crore, from ₹63,44,756.24 crore in FY23, the central bank said in its Annual Report.

"The increase on asset side was due to rise in foreign investments, gold, and loans and advances by 13.9%, 18.26% and 30.05%, respectively," the RBI said. On the liabilities side, the expansion was due to increase in notes issued, deposits and other liabilities by 3.88%, 27% and 92.57%, respectively, it added.

"Domestic assets constituted 23.31% while foreign currency assets, gold (including gold deposit and gold held in India) and loans and advances to financial institutions outside India constituted 76.69% of total assets in FY24 as against 26.08% and 73.92%, respectively in FY23," the RBI noted.

A provision of ₹42,819.91 crore was transferred to the Contingency Fund.

The RBI also reiterated its outlook for growth, projecting real GDP growth for 2024-25 at 7%, with risks evenly balanced. "The outlook for the Indian economy remains bright, underpinned by a sustained strengthening of macroeconomic fundamentals, robust financial and corporate sectors and a resilient external sector," it said.

"The government's continued thrust on capex while pursuing fiscal consolidation, and consumer and business optimism augur well for investment and consumption demand." it added.

The RBI said as headline inflation eased towards the target, consumption demand, especially in rural areas, would revive.

'Forex buffers'

"The external sector's strength and buffers in the form of foreign exchange reserves will insulate domestic economic activity from global spillovers," it asserted.

"Geopolitical tensions, geoeconomic fragmentation, global financial market volatility, international commodity price movements and erratic weather developments pose downside risks to the growth outlook and upside risks to the inflation outlook," the central bank added.

Strong showing

The RBI's balance sheet increased by ₹7,02,946.97 cr. to ₹70,47,703.21 cr. in FY24

- Foreign investments, gold, loans and advances rose by 13.9%, 18.3% and 30%, respectively, boosting assets
- On liabilities, notes issued, deposits and other liabilities increased by 3.88%, 27% and 92.57%, respectively

- Income lifted by ₹83,615.86 cr. in gains on forex transactions, ₹65,327.93 cr. in interest income from foreign securities

RBI specifies framework for SRO for FinTech firms

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued the Framework for Recognising Self-Regulatory Organisation for the FinTech Sector (SRO-FT) for better self governance and compliance by firms in this space.

Entities meeting or intending to meet the eligibility conditions and requirements of the SRO-FT framework have been asked to submit applications. The names of applicants found eligible for the "recognition" will be published on the RBI website.

The SRO-FT should operate objectively, with credibility and responsibility under the RBI's oversight. "It should strive towards healthy and sustainable development of the FinTech sector and, if necessary, identify a glide path to a phased regulatory and/or supervisory compliance," it said. The applicant should be set up as a not-for-profit company and its shareholding should be sufficiently diversified, with no entity holding 10% or more of its paid-up share capital.

'Pharma exports to log $31 bn in FY25'

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

India's pharmaceutical exports are expected to grow by more than 11% and touch a record $31 billion in FY25 on the back of multiple factors, especially a shortage of drugs in the key U.S. market, a top official of the exporters body under the Commerce Ministry said on Thursday.

For the fiscal ended March, pharma exports, a mainstay in the country's global trade, rose 9.6% to $27.8 billion. The growth came amid numerous global challenges, Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council of India Director General Ravi Uday Bhaskar said.

"Pharmaceutical exports to the U.S. increased 15% to more than $8 billion, while the exports to the U.K. were 21% higher... demonstrating the robust growth of the Indian pharmaceutical industry," he told PharmaLytica expo and conference here.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	THURSDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	73,886	-0.83
US Dollar	83.29	0.13
Gold	72,850	-0.48
Brent oil	82.33	-1.46

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	3194.25	-64.55
Adani Ports	1383.50	-26.50
Apollo Hosp	5766.45	-137.00
Asian Paints	2883.70	-16.45
Axis Bank	1167.95	8.20
Bajaj Auto	8968.50	-101.70
Bajaj Finserv	1524.10	-45.80
Bajaj Finance	6616.45	-190.25
Bharti Airtel	1377.15	0.05
BPCL	625.75	-7.80
Britannia Ind	5198.55	-31.25
Cipla	1466.60	-26.95
Coal India	482.15	-4.30
Divis Lab	4412.80	-35.20
Dr Reddys Lab	5873.75	-127.00
Eicher Motors	4742.95	-2.45
Grasim Ind	2345.20	-55.40
HCL Tech	1331.85	-21.25
HDFC Bank	1514.85	6.55
HDFC Life	550.75	-11.10
Hero MotoCorp	5136.00	-7.75
Hindalco	695.15	-10.15
Hind Unilever	2351.40	-22.00
ICICI Bank	1113.70	11.70
IndusInd Bank	1446.80	-13.45
Infosys	1427.45	-23.50
ITC	423.85	-7.10
JSW Steel	883.70	-18.20
Kotak Bank	1690.10	2.25
L&T	3634.70	-0.10
LTIMindtree Ltd.	4773.15	-107.65
M&M	2493.50	-40.15
Maruti Suzuki	12598.00	-190.65
NestleIndia	2404.80	-71.40
NTPC	359.70	-4.90
ONGC	266.70	-5.15
PowerGrid Corp	306.70	-11.00
Reliance Ind	2849.70	-31.85
SBI Life	1380.05	-32.75
State Bank	825.85	3.20
Shriram Finance Ltd.	2302.70	-71.95
Sun Pharma	1459.10	-19.85
TataConsumerProduct	1067.20	-4.10
Tata Motors	923.95	-19.65
Tata Steel	164.15	-10.10
TCS	3736.10	-67.55
Tech Mahindra	1240.85	-45.60
Titan	3271.85	-108.55
UltraTech Cement	9868.85	-154.55
Wipro	436.95	-13.85

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on May 30

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	83.12	83.44
Euro	89.91	90.26
British Pound	105.67	106.08
Japanese Yen (100)	52.95	53.16
Chinese Yuan	11.49	11.53
Swiss Franc	91.67	92.02
Singapore Dollar	61.51	61.76
Canadian Dollar	60.60	60.84
Malaysian Ringitt	17.66	17.74
Australian Dollar	54.99	55.21

Source:Indian Bank

Muthoot Finance Q4 net up 17% to ₹1,182 cr.

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Muthoot Finance Ltd. on Thursday reported a 17% rise in consolidated net profit at ₹1,182 crore in the March quarter.

The gold financing company had posted a net profit of ₹1,009 crore in the year-earlier period.

Muthoot Finance consolidated results take into account its subsidiaries Muthoot Homefin, Belstar Microfinance, Muthoot Money, Muthoot Insurance Brokers Pvt. Ltd., and Asia Asset Finance PLC.

Total income rose to ₹4,179 crore from ₹3,298 crore year-on-year (YoY), Muthoot Finance said in a regulatory filing.

The expenditure during the quarter rose to ₹2,594 crore from ₹1,943 crore a year earlier, it said.

Loan book

The consolidated loan assets under management grew 25% to ₹89,079 crore from ₹71,497 crore YoY.

The board declared a dividend of ₹24, or 240% on the face value of ₹10 per equity share.

Apollo Hospitals Q4 PAT surges 76% to ₹254 crore

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Apollo Hospitals Enterprise Ltd. reported fourth-quarter consolidated net profit surged 76% year-on-year to ₹254 crore. Healthcare services net profit at ₹280 crore increased 9%.

Revenue for the quarter ended March 31 rose 15% to ₹4,944 crore. Healthcare services revenue at ₹2,563 crore climbed 17%.

For FY24, consolidated net profit rose 33% to ₹899 crore. This was excluding deferred tax reversal of ₹143 crore for FY23, the company said in a filing.

Revenue for FY24 rose 15% to ₹19,059 crore. Healthcare services revenue logged 14% growth to ₹9,867 crore.

Prathap C. Reddy

"FY24 has been a special year for us at Apollo as we achieved some remarkable milestones to further enhance the quality of our care," said Prathap C. Reddy, Chairman, Apollo Hospitals Group.

"Steadfast dedication to delivering top-notch healthcare services continues to be a key pillar of our growth.

"While Apollo leads the paradigm shift in healthcare focused on prevention of diseases, we are committed to advance our research efforts and leverage cutting-edge, new-age technologies like AI and robotics to enhance patient outcomes." Dr. Reddy said.

"Cancer is one of our key focus areas given the increasing incidence of the disease being reported in India. We are committed to advance our research and introduce novel, technology-driven medical solutions and set new benchmarks in cancer care."

Apollo Hospitals would continue to strengthen its endeavors to identify and introduce best-in-class, technology-enabled healthcare solutions to enhance patient outcomes.

JioMart said to mull quick e-com entry

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

Reliance Retail's JioMart, an e-marketplace is planning to introduce quick commerce services in India to provide its customers with a choice and enhance its business.

The delivery will be under 30 minutes and available in eight cities across 68 pin codes from June, starting with the grocery category, including fruits and vegetables, people familiar with the matter said.

Reliance Retail will leverage its network of almost 19,000 stores to start instant delivery in over 1,000 cities in a phased manner, marking one of the largest quick commerce rollouts by any company in India, the people said.

By managing online and offline orders from the same stores, JioMart aims at improving unit economics and extend quick commerce to every corner of the country.

JioMart will leverage its technology platforms for fulfilment process and optimise delivery routes to reach customers in the shortest span of time.

E-com, BFSI, hospitality driving job market: Apna

Press Trust of India
MUMBAI

E-commerce, BFSI (banking, financial services and insurance), and hospitality sectors witnessed an increased demand for talent in the first four months of 2024, indicating a recovery in overall job market, according to a report.

Driven by economic recovery, the demand for workforce in BFSI increased the maximum by 21% during the first four months of CY24. While the e-com sector saw a rise of 17%, services and hospitality industries reported a growth of 13%, as per the report by professional networking platform Apna.

Mumbai to log 34% growth in skyscrapers by 2030: Anarock

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) will see a 34% growth in skyscrapers with more than 40 floors over the next six years (2024 to 2030), consulting firm Anarock said in a study.
The region currently has 361 high-rise towers of more than 40 floors each.

Of these, 154 have already been completed and more than 207 scheduled to be completed by 2030.

"Skyscrapers are really maximum city's only logical response for the need to balance growth with sustainability," said Anuj Puri, Chairman, Anarock Group.

'Ratio of women in leadership roles stagnating in India'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Representation of women in corporate roles, which has for long been below 30% in India, has been stagnating, and possibly declining in the post-pandemic years, according to a report by professional networking platform LinkedIn, 'Women in Leadership in Corporate India'.

The data is based on LinkedIn members in India, where the firm has more than 100 million registered users. Aparajita Bharti, co-founder of The Quantum Hub consultancy that worked with LinkedIn on the report, said the reduction in the availability of hybrid or work-from-home roles likely contributed to this shift, impacting the growth of female participation in the corporate labour market.

The company's data "shows that despite progress, women still face obstacles in reaching leadership roles due to bias, societal norms, and structural barriers," said Aditi Jha, country head for legal and government affairs at LinkedIn India.

'Skills first approach'

LinkedIn in its report suggests a 'skills-first' approach to hiring (as opposed to making gendered assumptions on a prospective employee's capabilities), mentorship and networking opportunities, and shared parental leave.

"Industries such as education at 30% and government administration at 29% have the highest representation of women in leadership roles, followed by administrative and support services and hospitals and health care, each with 23%," LinkedIn said in the report.

Shriram Properties net rose 32% in Q4 to ₹20 crore

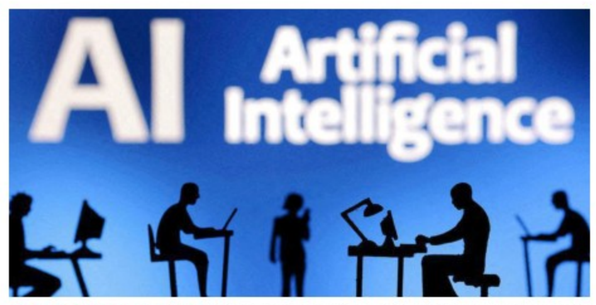
Press Trust of India
BENGALURU

Realty firm Shriram Properties reported a 32% rise in consolidated net profit to ₹20.18 crore for the March quarter on higher income. Its net profit was ₹15.25 crore in the year-earlier period.

Total income rose to ₹358.37 crore in the fourth quarter of the last fiscal from ₹170.98 crore in the March quarter of FY23, according to a regulatory filing on Wednesday. During FY24, net profit rose to ₹75.43 crore (₹65.97 crore). The company has a strong development pipeline comprising 42 projects.

Global AI chips revenue will grow 33% in 2024: Gartner

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU



'Smarter' computers: Gartner forecasts AI PC shipments will reach 22% of total PC shipments in 2024. REUTERS

Revenue from artificial intelligence (AI) semiconductors globally is expected to total $71 billion in 2024, a rise of 33% from 2023, according to the latest forecast by Gartner Inc.

"Today, generative AI (GenAI) is fueling demand for high-performance AI chips in data centres," said Alan Priestley, VP Analyst at Gartner. "In 2024, the value of AI accelerators used in servers, which offload data processing from microprocessors, will total $21 billion, and increase to $33 billion by 2028," Mr. Priestley added.

Gartner forecasts AI PC shipments will reach 22% of total PC shipments in 2024, and by the end of 2026, 100% of enterprise PC purchases will be an AI PC. AI PCs include a neural processing unit (NPU) enabling them to run longer, quieter and cooler and have AI tasks running continuously in the background, creating new opportunities for leveraging AI in everyday activities.

While AI semiconductor revenue would continue to experience double-digit growth through the forecast period, 2024 was expected to experience the highest growth rate during that period, Gartner predicted.

COLOMBO

Sri Lanka seeks release of its ex-soldiers in Russia and Ukraine

REUTERS

Sri Lanka's Foreign Ministry said on Thursday it is seeking the release of hundreds of its ex-soldiers fighting for Russia as well as around a dozen prisoners of war in Ukraine. Sri Lanka opened an inquiry this month into illegal recruitment for the conflict, identifying 455 ex-soldiers who had gone to fight for Russia. AFP

MADRID

Spanish Parliament gives green light to amnesty Bill for Catalans

AP

Spain's Parliament gave the final green light to a controversial amnesty Bill for Catalan separatists on Thursday, paving the way for the return of their figurehead Carles Puigdemont. The legislation seeks to draw a line under years of efforts to prosecute those involved in the failed 2017 Catalan independence bid. AFP

PHNOM PENH

Cambodia to begin work on controversial canal in August: PM

AP

Cambodia will start work on a $1.7-billion canal linking the capital Phnom Penh to the sea in August, Prime Minister Hun Manet said on Thursday. The Chinese-backed Funan Techo canal has sparked fears in neighbouring Vietnam that it could be used by Chinese warships, and reduce Cambodian dependence on their ports. AFP

QUETTA

Four Pakistanis killed, two injured as Iranian border guards open fire

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Iranian border guards opened fire at a vehicle carrying a group of Pakistanis, killing four persons and wounding two others in the border village of Mashkel in Baluchistan province, a remote area in the southwest, Pakistani officials said on Thursday. It remains unclear why the Iranian forces opened fire, an official said. AP

14 democracy activists convicted in Hong Kong national security case

The campaigners, including former lawmakers, were found guilty of conspiracy to commit subversion in the city's biggest national security case; they could face up to life in prison when sentenced later; two of the accused were acquitted

Associated Press
HONG KONG

Silencing voices: Hong Kong police chief Superintendent Steve Li Kwai-wah speaks to the media in front of the court on Thursday. AFP

Fourteen pro-democracy activists were convicted in Hong Kong's biggest national security case on Thursday by a court that said their plan to effect change through an unofficial primary election would have undermined the government's authority and created a constitutional crisis.

After a 2019 protest movement that filled the city's streets with demonstrators, authorities have all but silenced dissent in Hong Kong through reduced public choice in elections, crackdowns on media and the Beijing-imposed security law under which the activists were convicted. Those found guilty of conspiracy to commit subversion included former lawmakers Leung Kwok-hung, Lam Cheuk-ting, Helena Wong and Raymond Chan, and they could face up to life in prison when sentenced.

The activists were among 47 democracy advocates who were prosecuted in 2021 for their involvement in the primary. Prosecutors had accused them of attempting to paralyse Hong Kong's government and topple the city's leader by securing the legislative majority necessary to indiscriminately veto Budgets.

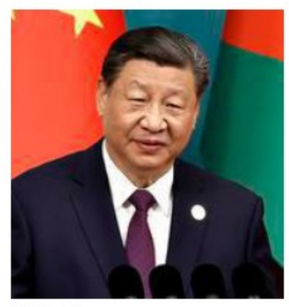
In a summary of the verdict distributed to media, the court said the election participants had declared they would use their legislative power to veto the Budgets.

Under the city's mini-constitution, the Chief Executive can dissolve the legislature if a Budget cannot be passed but the leader would have to step down if the Budget is again vetoed in the next legislature.

The pro-democracy camp at that time hoped they could secure a legislative majority, which would allow them to press for the 2019 protest demands, including greater police accountability and democratic elections for the city leader. But the government postponed the legislative election that would have followed the primary, citing public health risks during the coronavirus pandemic. The electoral laws were later overhauled, effectively increasing the number of pro-Beijing lawmakers in the legislature.

Xi calls for conference to discuss crisis in West Asia

Agence France-Presse
BEIJING



Xi Jinping

Chinese President Xi Jinping called on Thursday for a peace conference to end the war between Israel and Hamas, as he addressed Arab leaders at a forum aimed at bolstering ties with the region.

Mr. Xi is this week hosting Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, Emirati President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, and several other Arab leaders.

Itself an oil producer, China has also long imported crude from the West Asia, where it has sought to expand its influence in recent years.

It has positioned itself as a more neutral actor on the Israel-Palestinian conflict than its rival the United States, advocating for a two-state solution while also maintaining good ties with Israel.

China has pointed to the West Asia as a key node in its Belt and Road infrastructure initiative, a central pillar of Mr. Xi's bid to expand his country's clout overseas.

Addressing delegates, Mr. Xi on Thursday expressed support for a "broad-based" peace conference to resolve the Israel-Hamas conflict.

"The West Asia is a land bestowed with broad prospects for development, but the war is still raging on it," Mr. Xi said.

"War should not continue indefinitely. Justice should not be absent forever," he added.

Speaking after Mr. Xi, Egypt's Sisi urged the international community to ensure Palestinians in the Gaza Strip are not displaced from their war-ravaged territory. Egypt shares a border with Gaza and signed a historic peace deal with Israel in 1978.

Analysts say China is seeking to leverage the war in Gaza to boost its standing in the region, framing its efforts to end that conflict against perceived U.S. inaction.

Two Russian military boats destroyed in Crimea attack: Kyiv

Agence France-Presse
KYIV

Ukraine's GUR military intelligence service said on Thursday that its forces had used naval drones to destroy two Russian patrol boats off Moscow-annexed Crimea.

The GUR agency wrote on Telegram that its Group 13 special forces unit using Ukrainian naval drones "successfully attacked the boats of the aggressor state of Russia in temporarily-occupied Crimea".

It said that Russia used fighter planes and helicopters to try to destroy the drones in the Vuzka bay in northwest Crimea, as well as firing on them using small arms and 30 mm cannons.

Despite odds

It posted video footage of a helicopter firing into the water and bright flashes of fire apparently coming from the coast, saying this did not prevent the Ukrainians from "successfully completing their combat mission".

"As a result of the strike,

Russia used fighter planes and helicopters to try to destroy the drones, Ukraine says

two Russian boats were destroyed," GUR said, adding that according to preliminary data, they were high-speed amphibious vessels of the KS-701 Tunets type.

The GUR video shows footage from a drone showing it honing in on two moored boats, as well as nighttime footage of a massive explosion sending a plume of smoke up into the air.

The KS-701 small motor boats, made in Russia, are used for coastal patrols.

Russia said earlier it had destroyed two Ukrainian naval drones "heading for Crimea" and intercepted 13 aerial drones in the southern Krasnodar region and over the Black Sea near Crimea.

Russia also said it shot down eight tactical ATACMS missiles over the Sea of Azov, near Crimea.

ANC on track to lose majority after watershed South Africa election

Agence France-Presse
JOHANNESBURG

South Africa's ruling ANC was on course to lose its 30-year unchallenged majority on Thursday after voters queued long into the night to cast their ballots, preliminary results and projections showed.

With a third of votes tallied, the ANC was leading but with a score of 42% – well below the 57% it won in 2019 – followed by the liberal Democratic Alliance (DA) at 25%, according to authorities.

The leftist Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) and former South African President Jacob Zuma's uMkhonto weSizwe (MK) were neck and neck on around 9% each.

The final results are expected in the next three days.

"The broad church of the ANC has taken a substantial knock. This is a shock to the system for the ANC and ultimately will also be a shock to the system for the average South African, who has only known ANC rule since 1994," said political analyst Daniel

Historic poll: Electoral Commission of South Africa officials empty a ballot box during the vote counting process at Addington Primary School voting station in Durban on Wednesday. AFP

Silke. "It redraws the political boundaries of South Africa and creates a degree of uncertainty".

If President Cyril Ramaphosa's party is confirmed as dropping below 50%, it would force him to seek coalition partners to be re-elected to form a new government.

That would be a historic evolution in the country's democratic journey, which was underlined by newspaper headlines on Thursday.

The ANC has dominated South Africa's democracy with an unbroken run of five Presidents from the party.

The party remains respected for its leading role in overthrowing white minority rule, and its progressive social welfare and black economic empowerment policies are credited by supporters with helping millions of black families out of poverty.

But over three decades of almost unchallenged rule, its leadership has been implicated in a series of large-scale corruption scandals, while the continent's most industrialised economy has languished and crime and unemployment figures have hit record highs.

Almost all votes had been counted by 3:00 pm on Thursday, but most had yet to be validated, Independent Electoral Commission's head Sy Mamabolo told a press conference.

'Iran using Swedish gangs to target Israel'

Agence France-Presse
STOCKHOLM

Iran is recruiting members of Swedish criminal gangs, some of them children, as proxies to commit "acts of violence" against Israel and other states in Sweden that Tehran considers a threat, Sweden's intelligence agency said on Thursday.

The announcement came two weeks after nighttime gunfire was reported outside Israel's embassy in Stockholm.

DR. RAM MANOHAR LOHIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES
VIBHUTI KHAND, GOMTI NAGAR, LUCKNOW- 226 010 (UP)
Phone: 0522-6692120, 101, Fax No. 0522-4918506
Website - www.drrmlims.ac.in

No. 1038/Estb.2/Dr.RMLIMS/2024 Date: 29/05/2024

Sub: Cancellation of Recruitment Advertisement-Non-Teaching Post

The following Non-Teaching posts which were advertised in our combined recruitment Advt. No. 04 to 19 / Estb.-2 / Rectt./ Dr.RMLIMS / 2022 / 2764 dated 8/10/2022, are hereby cancelled and withdrawn with immediate effect :-

Sl No.	Name of the Post	Reference of Advt.
1	Scientist A (Radiation Oncology)	07/Estb.2/Rectt./Dr.RMLIMS/2022
2	Scientist A (Research Officer)	08/Estb.2/Rectt./Dr.RMLIMS/2022

For reasons, kindly visit the Institute website www.drrmlims.ac.in

CHIEF MEDICAL SUPDT.
Dr. RMLIMS, Lucknow

OFFICE OF CHIEF ENGINEER (URBAN & NRW),
PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, JAL BHAWAN,
2-CIVIL LINES JAIPUR, RAJASTHAN
No. 3469-93 dt. 22.05.2024

BID NOTICE

On behalf of the Governor of Rajasthan, PHED invites online bids in electronic format on website http://eporc.rajasthan.gov.in, from manufacturers for PROCUREMENT OF ISI MARKED G.I. PIPES, MEDIUM CLASS 32-80 mm, As per IS 1239 (Part-I): 2004 amended up to date. For more details kindly visit website www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in & http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in.

NIB Code: PHE2425A0346
UBN Code: PHE2425GLRC00669

(RAKESH KUMAR MUDGAL)
SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
MATERIAL MANAGEMENT CIRCLE
PHED RAJASTHAN, JAIPUR

DIPR/C/3815/2024

Gunmen murder Rohingya teacher, student in Bangladesh

Agence France-Presse
COX'S BAZAR

Gunmen in Bangladesh have killed a teacher and a student in a Rohingya refugee camp for refusing to return to Myanmar to fight, their parents said on Thursday.

Hundreds of Rohingya boys and young men have been seized from refugee camps in Bangladesh, where they had sought safety after Myanmar's military drove about 7,50,000 members of the persecuted Muslim minority out of the country in 2017.

Now Rohingya militants working with the Myanmar junta are recruiting the refugees, according to camp residents, UN reports and analysts.

The militants say their fellow Rohingya need to ally with Myanmar's Army – the same forces who drove them into exile – to face a common enemy in another Myanmar rebel force, the Arakan Army (AA).

Police said the two men, student Nur Absar, 22, and teacher Nur Faisal, 21, were killed by "unknown assailants" in Kutupalong camp in Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar district.

"One died on the spot, another died in hospital," said Arefin Jewel, a police spokesperson in Kutupalong.

"We are investigating whether it is a case of forced recruitment".

But Faisal's father blamed the Rohingya Solidarity Organisation (RSO).

"The RSO went to my son's school and wanted to recruit him," Zakir Ahmed, 45, said. "My son refused."

According to a report by the UN refugee agency, at least 1,870 refugees – more than a quarter of them children or youth – were recruited into the armed groups during a two-month period between March and May. More than three-quarters were taken by force, the UN report said, including by "abduction, kidnapping and coercion".

KERALA MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD
(DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE, GOVT. OF KERALA)
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E-mail : edrugs.kmscl@kerala.gov.in,
website : www.kmscl.kerala.gov.in, CIN No. U24233KL2007SGC021616

No.KMSCL/ED/18/2024 Date : 29.05.2024

E-TENDER NOTICE

Online bids are invited from manufacturers/direct importers/ loan licensees on behalf of Department of Health, Govt of Kerala for the Procurement of Drugs for De-addiction Centers for the year 2024-25.

Sl. No.	Tender No. and Date	Category	No. of items
1.	KMSCL/ED/De-addiction Drugs/RC/ 2024/008 dtd. 29.05.2024	De-addiction Drugs	05

The last date and time of online uploading of tender will be 12.06.2024, 5.00 pm. The date and time of opening of Technical bid will be 15.06.2024 11.30 am. Tender shall be downloaded and submitted online through the e-tender portal www.etenders.kerala.gov.in.

(Sd/-) MANAGING DIRECTOR (Tender Inviting Authority)

UNFORTUNATE

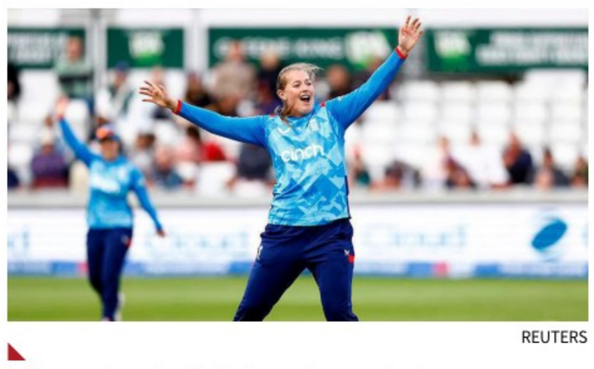
US embassy denies Lamichhane visa for T20 World Cup

AFP

Nepal said on Thursday the US embassy had denied Sandeep Lamichhane a visa and there was a "slim or no chance" he would play in the T20 World Cup. Nepal wanted to select spinner Lamichhane, who had his eight-year sentence for rape quashed on appeal this month. His visa had been denied, calling it "unfortunate".

RECORD

Ecclestone becomes the fastest to reach 100 wickets in women's ODIs

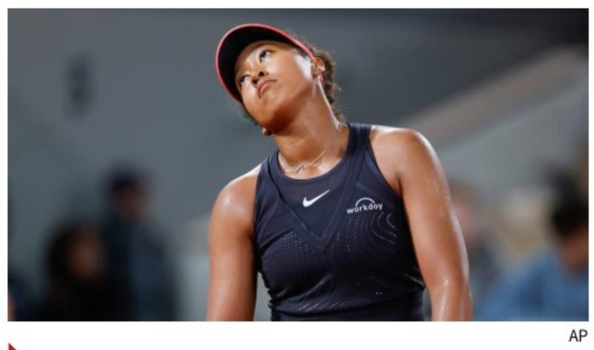


REUTERS

Left-arm spinner Sophie Ecclestone became the fastest woman to 100 ODI wickets during the third and final ODI between England Women and Pakistan Women at Chelmsford. She completed 100 wickets in 64 matches level with Australian Cathryn Fitzpatrick, but beats the record in terms of number of innings bowled (63).

EMOTIONAL

Osaka in tears after epic Swiatek defeat, insists she's felt worse

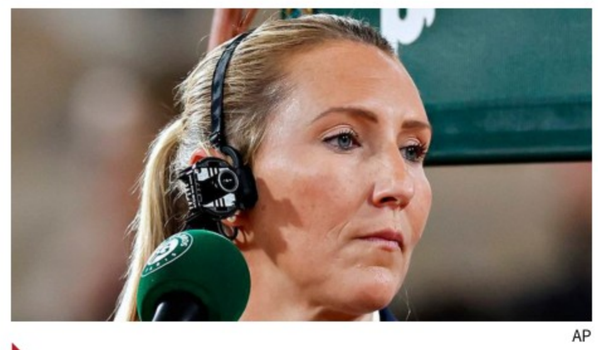


AP

Naomi Osaka said she wept after Wednesday's epic French Open defeat to Iga Swiatek but insisted: "I've felt worse". "I cried when I came off court but then I thought of how last year I was watching Iga win the French Open while I was pregnant," said Osaka. "My dream then was to come and play against her."

NEW INITIATIVE

Head-cams for chair umpires in bid to enhance TV viewing



AP

From interactions with players to making the correct call at the French Open, TV viewers can now see exactly what the chair umpire is looking at. For the first time, chair umpires at the main Court Philippe Chatrier are wearing small head-cams. Organisers hope the camera footage will provide viewers with an immersive experience.

Champion England and Australia favourites in Group-B

Salt's form and return of Archer augurs well for Buttler's team; Baggy Greens are always at their best in big tournaments as seen in the 50-over World Cup; Scotland, Namibia and Oman complete group

T20 WC COUNTDOWN

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

In *The Hindu's* countdown to the 2024 ICC Men's T20 World Cup, which commences in the West Indies and USA on June 2, we take a look at the teams in Group-B.

ENGLAND: The defending champion would have hoped that the four-match T20I series against Pakistan gives them ideal preparation, but rain has played spoilsport. Nevertheless, key pieces of the puzzle have started to fall in place.

Pace spearhead Jofra Archer has made a smooth comeback from injury, while captain Jos Buttler got into the groove with a 51-ball 84 against Pakistan at Birmingham last week.

All-rounder Liam Livingstone, who played his part in the 2022 triumph, will strive to overcome a recent slump in form.

Key player: Phil Salt: The aggressive opening batter went at a strike-rate of 182 for Kolkata Knight Riders in IPL 2024. Salt's PowerPlay hitting will be crucial to England's success.

The squad: Jos Buttler (Capt.), Moeen Ali, Jofra Archer, Jonny Bairstow, Harry Brook, Sam Curran, Ben Duckett, Tom Hartley, Will Jacks, Chris Jordan, Liam Livingstone, Adil Rashid, Phil Salt, Reece Topley and Mark Wood.

AUSTRALIA: As seen in the 2023 50-over Cricket World Cup, the Baggy Greens are at their best in big tournaments.

This time should be no different, as the squad is packed with efficient personnel. Travis Head and David Warner will smash it at the top of the order, while left-arm speedster Mitchell Starc will swing it around corners with the new ball.

The Aussies will be happy to see fast bowler Josh Hazlewood and skipper Mitchell Marsh recover well from injury. Leg-spinner Adam Zampa should come in fresh, having opted out of IPL 2024. Glenn Maxwell's horror run in the IPL, however, is a cause for concern.

Key player: Travis Head: Head plundered runs at an outstanding strike-rate for Sunrisers Hyderabad in IPL 2024, rewriting the rules on a good PowerPlay score.

Firing at the top: England will hope Salt continues his ominous IPL form in the marquee tournament. GETTY IMAGES

The squad: Mitchell Marsh (Capt.), Ashton Agar, Pat Cummins, Tim David, Nathan Ellis, Cameron Green, Josh Hazlewood, Travis Head, Josh Inglis, Glenn Maxwell, Mitchell Starc, Marcus Stoinis, Matthew Wade, David Warner and Adam Zampa.

NAMIBIA: With a dominant show in the Africa Region Qualifier, Namibia claimed its third straight T20 World Cup spot.

The country cannot be written off, having had some success at the highest level (wins over Sri Lanka and Netherlands in previous T20 World Cups).

The side will hope that the first warm-up game, where it received a hiding from Australia, was an aberration.

Key player: Gerhard Erasmus: The captain has long been a consistent performer as a middle-order batter and off-spinner.

The squad: Gerhard Erasmus (Capt.), Zane Green, Michael Van Lingen, Dylan Leicher, Ruben Trumpelmann, Jack Brassell, Ben Shikongo, Tangeni Lungameni, Niko Davin, J.J. Smit, Jan Frylinck, J.P. Kotze, David Wiese, Bernard Scholtz, Malan Kruger and P.D. Blignaut.

SCOTLAND: In 2018, Scotland made history when it upset neighbour England in an ODI.

Memories from that grand occasion will no doubt resurface when the teams meet on June 4 at Barbados.

Scotland is a regular participant on this grand stage, having competed in three ODI World Cups (1999, 2007 and 2015) and five T20 World Cups (2007, 2009, 2016, 2021 and 2022).

The side made it to the 2024 T20 World Cup with a six-match unbeaten run in the Europe Region Qualifier.

Key player: Brad Wheal: The 27-year-old fast bowler is the pick of the bowlers, backed by good shows for English county Hampshire.

The squad: Richie Berrington (Capt.), Matthew Cross, Brad Currie, Chris Greaves, Oli Hairs, Jack Jarvis, Michael Jones, Michael Leask, Brandon McMullen, George Munsey, Safyaan Sharif, Chris Sole, Charlie Tear, Mark Watt and Brad Wheal.

OMAN: Making a third T20 World Cup appearance, the squad is primarily made up of players with roots in Pakistan and India. Oman has failed to make it past the group stage in a World Cup, though it has managed to get wins over Ireland and Papua New Guinea.

There is quality in the bowling ranks, as left-arm death over specialist Bilal Khan and the strapping Kaleemullah form a good pace duo.

Key player: Aqib Ilyas: The all-rounder, who took over from Zeeshan Maqsood as the new captain, is a reliable top-order batter and handy spinner.

The squad: Aqib Ilyas (Capt.), Zeeshan Maqsood, Kashyap Prajapati, Pratik Athavale, Ayaan Khan, Shoaib Khan, Mohammad Nadeem, Naseem Khushi (wk), Mehran Khan, Bilal Khan, Rafiullah, Kaleemullah, Fayyaz Butt, Shakeel Ahmad and Khalid Kail.

Pant eager to make it count in the T20 WC

Prep time: Pant having a stint at the nets ahead of the warm-up game against Bangladesh on June 1. BCCI

Press Trust of India
NEW YORK

It would be 527 days since his life-threatening accident when Rishabh Pant dons the India jersey on June 5 at the Nassau County ground for the opening T20 World Cup match against Ireland and he can't wait for it.

"Getting back on the field with an Indian jersey on is a different feeling altogether. this is something I missed a lot.

"Hopefully I (can) make it count and make it better from here," Pant told *BCCI.TV* on the sidelines of India's first net session ahead of the warm-up game against Bangladesh on June 1.

"Seeing the team here and meeting them again, spending time, having fun with them, having a conversation with them, I really enjoyed," a beaming Pant said.

Having scored 446 runs in 13 IPL games, Pant is getting back into the groove.

"We are used to playing in certain countries but this is a different prospect. It has opened up a different channel for sport because I feel cricket is growing around the world and getting the exposure here would be nice for cricket as well as USA cricket," he said.

"New pitches are there. I'm just getting used to the conditions. The sun is a little bit brighter here, so just getting used to the conditions over here. Let's see how it goes," Pant concluded.

Harmanpreet to helm India against South Africa

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Jemimah Rodrigues and Pooja Vastrakar were on Thursday included in the Indian teams for the upcoming multi-format series against South Africa subject to fitness while top-order batter Priya Punia returned to the ODI side.

The women's selection committee announced India's squads for the upcoming assignments with Harmanpreet Kaur as the captain and Smriti Mandhana as her deputy.

India and South Africa will play a Test, three ODIs and as many T20Is between June 16 and July 9.

The squads:

ODIs: Harmanpreet Kaur (capt.), Smriti Mandhana, Shafali Verma, Deepti Sharma, Jemimah Rodrigues, Richa Ghosh (WK), Uma Chetry (WK), D. Hemalatha, Radha Yadav, Asha Sobhana, Shreyanka Patil, Saika Ishaque, Pooja Vastrakar, Renuka Singh Thakur, Arundhati Reddy, and Priya Punia.

One-off Test: Harmanpreet, Smriti, Shafali, Shubha Satheesh, Jemimah, Richa, Uma, Deepti, Sneh Rana, Saika, Rajeshwari Gayakwad, Pooja, Arundhati, Renuka, Meghna Singh, and Priya.

T20Is: Harmanpreet, Smriti, Shafali, Hemalatha, Uma, Richa, Jemimah, Sajana Sajeevan, Deepti, Shreyanka, Radha, Amanjot Kaur, Asha, Pooja, Renuka, and Arundhati. Standby: Saika Ishaque.

Djokovic cruises into the third round; Medvedev, Zverev, Sabalenka, and Rybakina also advance

FRENCH OPEN

Agence France-Presse
PARIS

Novak Djokovic reached the French Open last 32 for the 19th successive year on Thursday as Roland Garros organisers banned alcohol from the stands in an effort to counter growing complaints from players over disrespectful, rowdy fans.

After only nine singles matches were played after a Wednesday washout, 55 second round ties had been scheduled on Thursday.

Defending champion Djokovic, who is seeking a record 25th Grand Slam title, cracked 43 winners past Spain's 63rd-ranked Roberto Carballes Baena to canter to a 6-4, 6-1, 6-2 win.

Also easing through to the third round on another rain-hit day in the French capital were women's title contenders Aryna Sabalenka and Elena Rybakina.

Alcohol ban

However, the behaviour of fans at the tournament, which was brought into focus by Belgium's David Goffin's claim that he had chewing gum spat at him, prompted a series of measures to clampdown on loutish behaviour.

"Alcohol has been allowed in the stadiums until now but that's over," tournament director Amelie Mauresmo told reporters.

Mauresmo said fans will be ejected if they throw something at a player and that "umpires have tighter, even more precise instructions on keeping the crowd under control".

Fourth seed Alexander Zverev, who effectively ended Rafael Nadal's French Open career in the first round, defeated Goffin 7-6(4), 6-2, 6-2.

Former World No. 1 Daniil Medvedev moved into the last 32 after his opponent Miomir Kecmanovic retired with injury while trailing the fifth seed 6-1, 5-0. Amongst the early winners were World No. 2 Sabalenka who fired 27 winners past Japanese qualifier Moyuka Uchijima to win 6-2, 6-2.

The two-time Australian Open champion, a semifinalist in Paris in 2023, is expected to be Iga Swiatek's chief rival in the Pole's quest for a fourth French Open title.

Fourth-seeded Rybakina, the only woman to defeat Swiatek on clay this year, was similarly untroubled. She eased past Arantxa Rus of the Netherlands 6-3, 6-4.

Powering ahead: Sabalenka and Djokovic took out their second round opponents in straight sets to make the round of 32. REUTERS

TOP RESULTS

Second round: Men: 1-Djokovic (Srb) bt Carballes Baena (Esp) 6-4, 6-1, 6-; 5-Zverev (Ger) bt Goffin (Bel) 7-6(4), 6-2, 6-2; 5-Medvedev (Rus) bt Kecmanovic (Srb) 6-1, 5-0, retd.; 27-Korda (USA) bt Soon-woo (Kor) 6-4, 6-4, 1-6, 6-3.
10-Dimitrov (Bul) bt Marozsan (Hun) 6-0, 6-3, 6-4; 26-Griekspoor (Ned) bt Darderi (Ita) 7-6(2), 6-3, 6-3; 21-Auger-Aliassime (Can) bt Squire (Ger) 6-4, 4-6, 6-3, 6-2; 8-Hurkacz (Pol) bt Nakashima (USA) 6-7(2), 6-1, 6-3, 7-6(5); Shapovalov (Can) bt 25-Tiafoe (USA) 6-7(4), 6-4, 6-2, 6-4; **Women:** Vekic (Cro) bt 18-Kostyuk (Ukr) 7-5, 6-4; 30-Yastremska (Ukr) bt Wang (Chn) 6-2, 6-0; 4-Rybakina (Kaz) bt Rus (Ned) 6-3, 6-4; 2-Sabalenka (Blr) bt Uchijima (Jpn) 6-2, 6-2; 15-Svitolina (Ukr) bt Parry (Fra) 6-4, 7-6(3); Paquet (Fra) bt 32-Siniakova (Cze) 3-6, 7-6(2), 7-6(6); 5-Vondrousova (Cze) bt Volynets (USA) 0-6, 6-1, 6-4; 17-Samsonova (Rus) btAnisimova (USA) 6-2, 6-1; 31-Fernandez (Can) bt Wang (Chn) 6-3, 6-4; 14-Keys (USA) bt Sherif (Egy) 6-0, 7-6(7).
Wednesday: Men: Kotov (Rus) bt Wawrinka (Sui) 7-6(5), 6-4, 1-6, 7-6(5); 2-Sinner (Ita) bt Gasquet (Fra) 6-4, 6-2, 6-4.

INBRIEF

Lobjanidze upstages Messi as Atlanta stuns Miami

Georgia international Saba Lobjanidze upstaged Lionel Messi with two goals as struggling Atlanta United stunned league leader Inter Miami 3-1 on Wednesday in Major League Soccer. Lobjanidze stunned a star-studded Miami line-up with two long-range strikes either side of half-time to fire Atlanta into a 2-0 lead. Messi threatened to inspire a comeback for the home side after pulling a goal back to make it 2-1 but Atlanta restored its two-goal cushion when Jamal Thiare poked home Caleb Wiley's cross in the 73rd.

Sciver-Brunt's all-round show helps England win series 3-0

Nat Sciver-Brunt's outstanding all-round performance guided England to victory over Pakistan by 178 runs in the third and final ODI of the series at Chelmsford on Wednesday. With this victory, the English side whitewashed the Women in Green 2-0 in the three-match series.

The scores: England 302/5 in 50 overs (Danielle Wyatt 44, Nat Sciver-Brunt 124 n.o., Umm-e-Hani 2-47) bt Pakistan 124 in 29.1 overs (Muneeba Ali 47, Aliya Riaz 36, Sophie Ecclestone 3/15).

Ankita Raina advances in Montemor-o-Novo Challenger

Ankita Raina beat Linda Klimovicova of the Czech Republic 3-6, 6-2, 6-1 in the second round of the $40,000 ITF women's tennis tournament in Montemor-o-Novo, Portugal. In the $25,000 ITF women's event in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, Riya Bhatia battled for three hours and 50 minutes to beat Ana Paula Neffa De Los Rios of Paraguay 4-6, 7-6(5), 7-6(5) in the second round in a draw of 64.

The results: €74,825 Challenger, Vicenza, Italy: First round: Andre Begemann (Ger) & Niki Poonacha bt Ryan Seggerman & Patrik Trhac (USA) 6-3, 6-7(4), [10-8]; Marco Bortolotti (Ita) & Alexandru Jecan (Rou) bt Anirudh Chandrasekar & Arjun Kadhe 6-2, 6-7(7), [11-9].
$82,000 Challenger, Little Rock, USA: First round: Rithvik Bollipalli & Hans Verdugo (Mex) bt Nishesh Basavareddy & Cooper Williams (USA) 5-7, 6-3, [10-7].
$25,000 ITF men, La Nucia, Spain: Quarterfinals: Siddhant Banthia & Eric Vanshelboim (Ukr) bt Alejandro Garcia & Mario Diez (Esp) 6-1, 7-5.
$15,000 ITF men, Monastir, Tunisia: Second round: Pedro Araujo (Por) bt Abhinav Sanjeev Shanmugam 6-3, 6-3.
Women: Second round: Zeel Desai bt Alexandra Iordache (Rou) 1-6, 6-1, 6-3.
$40,000 ITF women, Montemor-o-Novo, Portugal: Second round: Ankita Raina bt Linda Klimovicova (Cze) 3-6, 6-2, 6-1; First round: Ankita bt Alice Gillan (GBR) 6-4, 6-2.
$25,000 ITF women, Changwon, Korea: Second round: Haruna Arakawa (Jpn) bt Shrivalli Bhamidipaty 7-5, 7-5.
$25,000 ITF women, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic: Second round: Sahaja Yamalapalli bt Jessica Gomez (Mex) 6-0, 6-3; Riya Bhatia bt Ana Los Rios (Par) 4-6, 7-6(5), 7-6(5).

Rathika in Hong Kong PSA Challenge Cup quarters

India's Rathika Seelan advanced to the quarterfinals of the fourth leg of Hong Kong PSA Challenge Cup with a come-from-behind 3-2 win over local challenger Ka Huen Leung. The sixth-seeded Indian edged out Leung 4-11, 5-11, 11-4, 11-4, 11-7 in the second round in Hong Kong on Wednesday after receiving a bye in opening round. She will meet third seed Malaysian Sehveetrraa Kumar in last-eight.

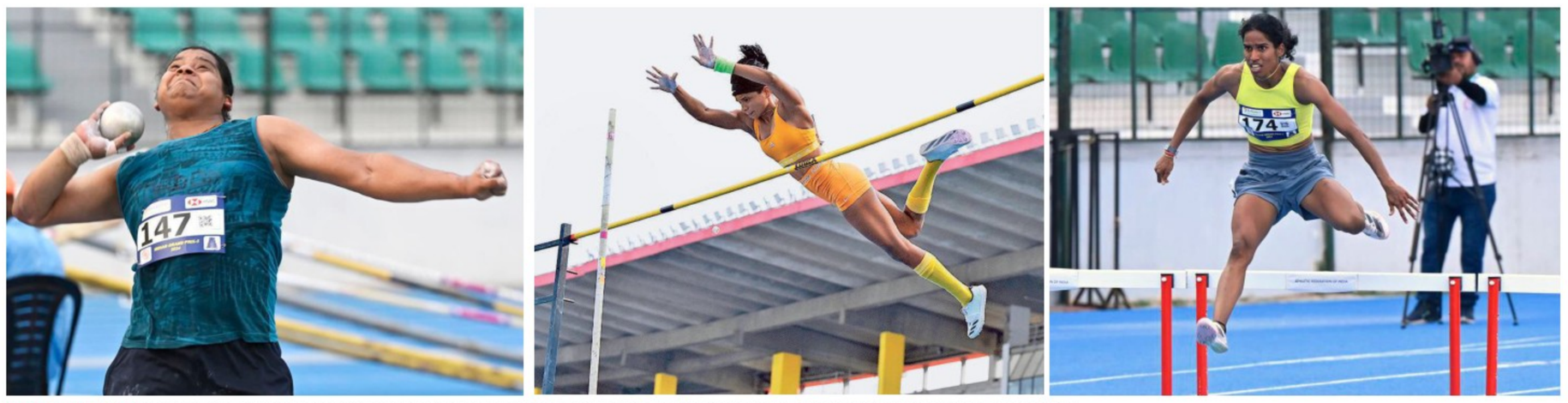
Akshay and Dheemanth slam centuries

A. Akshay Rangan (125, 97b, 19x4, 2x6) and K.M.Dheemanth (110 n.o, 81b, 12x4), slammed centuries for National CC in its thumping 371-run win over Vijaya CC in the KSCA Mysore Zone under-16 inter-club league-cum-knock-out cricket tournament in Mysuru recently.

The scores: National 431/5 in 50 overs (A. Akshay Rangan 125, K.M. Dheemanth 110 n.o., B.K. Arun 44) bt Vijaya 60 in 23.4 overs (V. Thushar 4/13); Jaihind 283/5 in 50 overs (G. Lakshminarayana 142 n.o., Shreyas K.K. Bhat 52) bt CPC Polytechnic 66 in 35.1 overs; Jo Jo 269 in 49.3 overs (M. Keerthan 65) bt Parashurama 54 in 25.1 overs; MUC 287 in 46 overs (R. Ayush 73, K. Ankith 53, Kushal 41, K.Vinay Kumar 5/46) bt City Cricketers 75 in 27.4 overs (S.S. Vishal 6/17). Mysore Underwriters 206 in 46.5 overs (S. Arun Charan 35, Chinmaya Nayaka 32, Aditya S. Umadi 4/33) lost to Jawahars 207/7 in 41 overs (Aditya S. Umadi 65, Chandan Harish 44 n.o). FUCC 92 in 31.3 overs (B. Kushmith 4/40) lost to RBN 93/1 in 15.4 overs (Vyshakh Nagaraj 47 n.o.).

LIVE TELECAST

NBA: Western Conference finals: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & JioCinema, 6 a.m.
Badminton: Singapore Open, Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & JioCinema, 9.30 a.m.
Roland Garros: Sony Sports Ten 2, 5 & LIV, 2.30 p.m.



Winning efforts: Abha Khatua, Baranica and Vithya Ramraj were among the three women who won gold medals in their respective events. R. RAGU

TN's Yugendran soars to a new meet record in men's pole vault

Baranica secures the gold in women's event; Vithya Ramraj claims the women's 400m hurdles title; Abha bags the shot put top spot

INDIAN GP

S. Prasanna Venkatesan
CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu's R. Yugendran set a new Grand Prix record of 5.20m, which he cleared in his second attempt, to clinch gold in the men's pole vault event of the second Indian Grand Prix of the season at the Jawaharlal Nehru stadium here on Thursday.

Yugendran broke the previous record of 5m, set by Gajanan Kumar Upadhayay of Indian Railways in Bengaluru in the year 2010.

Three-way contest

It was a three-way competition between Kerala's Mariya Jaison (Kerala), and Tamil Nadu's Baranica Elangovan and Pavithra Venkatesah for 3.90m in women's pole vault.

Baranica cleared the mark in her second attempt, Mariya in her third, while Pavithra failed in all her three attempts.

Baranica went on to scale 4m.

Vithya Ramraj claimed gold in 57.28s in the women's 400m hurdles, while Abha Khatua won the women's shot put event gold with 17.13m.

The results: Women: Pole vault: 1. Baranica Elangovan (TN) 4m; 2. Mariya Jaison (Ker) 3.90; V. Karthika (TN) 3.10.
400m hurdles: 1. R. Vithya Ramraj (TN) 57.28s; 2. Ramandeep Kaur (Pun) 1:01.60; 3. Mugada Sireesha (AP) 1:03.06.
Javelin throw: 1. Anjani Kumari (Bhr) 47.75m; 2. Hemamalini Neelakanda (TN) 47.47; 3. Lalita Choudhary (Raj) 42.09.
Shot put: 1. Abha Khatua (Mah) 17.13m; 2. M. Sharmila (TN) 12.90; 3. B. Vaishnavi (TN) 12.82.
Triple jump: 1. G. Pavithra (Kar) 13.14m; 2. I. Asha Ilango (TN) 12.98; 3. Sharvari Avinash Parule (Mah) 12.95.
200m: 1. Srabani Nanda (Odi) 24.49s; 2. A.T. Daneshwari (Kar) 25.06; 3. J. Dhivya (TN) 25.26.
1500m: 1. S. Neelambari (TN) 4:24.16s; 2. Thota Sankeertana (Cht) 4:26.84; 3. Elavarasi Kumaran (TN) 4:26.96.
400m: Race-A: 1. R. Vithya Ramraj (TN) 53s; 2. T.R. Sinchal Kaveramma (Kar) 53.70; 3. Aishwarya Mishra (Mah)53.79.
Race-B: 1. B.A. Anankha (Ker) 54.37s; 2. M.A. Nathaliea Evangelin (TN) 54.83; 3. Ramandeep Kaur (Pun) 57.40.
5000m: 1. Beby (UP) 17:30.91s; 2. Sanghamitra Mahata (Jha) 17:39.71; 3. Pooja (Raj) 18:09.57.
Men: 400m hurdles: Race-A: 1. Jabir Madari Palliyalil (Ker) 49.94s; 2. T. Santhosh Kumar (TN) 50.14; 3. K. Sathish (TN) 51.46.
Race-B: 1. Akhilbabu Akhilnivas (Ker) 52.47; 2. Jerome Sanjay Nishanth (TN) 53.89; 3. S. Jagathish (TN) 53.98.
200m: Race-A: 1. S. Nallubothu Shanumaga (AP) 21.18s; 2. Varun Oori Manohar (TN) 21.70; 3. S. Tamil Arasu (TN) 21.92.
Race-B: 1. R. Manav (TN) 21.70s; 2. S. Santhosh (TN) 21.94; 3. S. Manojkumar (TN) 22.19.
Pole vault: 1. R. Yugendran (TN) 5.20m; 2. M. Gowtham (TN) 5.10; 3. A.K. Sidharth (Ker) 4.90.
Shot put: 1. Parveen (Har) 16.21m; 2. S. Ebenezer (TN) 15.24.
1500m: 1. Ashok Dandasena (Odi) 3:50.44s; 2. U. Priyanshu (Utk) 3:50.60; 3. Adarsh Gopi (Ker) 3:51.90.
Javelin throw: 1. Vikash Sharma (Utk) 52.78m.
Triple jump: 1. S. Mohammed Salahuddin (TN) 16.40m; 2. U. Karthik (Ker) 16.20; 3. J. Mohanraj (TN) 16.02.
5000m: 1. Deepak Bhatt (Utk) 14:24.66s; 2. K. Anandkrishna (Ker) 14:39.90; 3. Mohan Saini (Goa) 14:50.11.
400: Race-A: 1. T. Santhosh Kumar (TN) 46.46s; 2. K. Avinash (TN) 47.30; 3. Kapil (Har) 47.66.
Race-B: 1. Aakash Babu Chinthala (TN) 47.75s; 2. Naveen Kumar (TN) 48.26; 3. Rajesh Kumar (TN) 48.98.
Race-C: 1. S.K. Kaven (TN) 48.44s; 2. Kapil Khokran (UP) 50.57; 3. Aman Yadav (Del) 53.29.

A mixed day for Indian junior hockey teams

Press Trust of India
BREDA (NETHERLANDS)

India concluded the junior hockey teams' tour of Europe with a gritty shootout win over Germany men, while the women were held 2-2 by Orange Rood Club here on Wednesday.

The men's team won 3-1 on penalties after a 1-1 stalemate in the regulation time. Gurjot Singh, Dilraj Singh and Manmeet Singh scored one goal each in the shoot-out after Mukesh Toppo struck off a rebound from a penalty corner in the 33rd minute. The Indian colts held their lead in regulation time until Germany equalised four minutes into fourth quarter.

The Indian women, against Orange Rood, Sanjana Horo broke the deadlock in the 18th minute. Oranje Rood scored twice to take a 2-1 lead in the third quarter. But India levelled through Anisha Sahu in the 58th.

Praggnanandhaa stuns Carlsen, snatches sole lead

NORWAY CHESS

Sports Bureau

R. Praggnanandhaa stunned World No. 1 Magnus Carlsen and snatched the sole lead from him in the third round of the Norway Chess tournament at Stavanger on Wednesday.

Remarkably, the Chennai youngster's win came against the Norwegian in the classical game, which meant he would pocket three points.

It was Praggnanandhaa's first ever victory in classical chess against the five-time World champion.

Praggnanandhaa moved to 5.5 points, after romping home in 37 moves from the white side of a Sicilian Defence.

Carlsen, whose king was uncastled, was forced to concede despite being a pawn up; there wasn't much defence for him against White's well-placed major pieces.

Fabiano Caruana of the USA, who beat World champion Ding Liren of China in classical game, was in second with five points.

The other American, Hikaru Nakamura, was on four points, and Alireza Firouzja of France on 3.5. Carlsen had three.

R. Vaishali maintained sole lead in the women's event, beating Ukraine's Anna Muzychuk in the Armageddon game. She was on 5.5 points, one ahead of Ju Wenjun of China.

Ju's compatriot Lei Tingjie was on four points after losing to Koneru Humpy.

The Indian is one of three players on three points – Muzychuk and Sweden's Pia Cramling are the others.

Perfect moves: Praggnanandhaa recorded his first-ever victory in classical chess against Carlsen. NORWAY CHESS

The results (third round): R. Praggnanandhaa 5.5 bt Magnus Carlsen (Nor) 5; Fabiano Caruana (USA) 5 bt Ding Liren (Chn) 2.5.
Hikaru Nakamura (USA) 4 bt Alireza Firouzja (Fra) 3.5.
Women: Anna Muzychuk (Uk) 3 lost to R. Vaishali 5.5; Pia Cramling (Swe) 3 lost to Ju Wenjun (Chn) 4.5; Koneru Humpy 3 bt Lei Tingjie (Chn) 4.

Sachin, Sanjeet, Amit, and Jaismine stay on course

BOXING QUALIFIERS

Press Trust of India
BANGKOK

Sachin Siwach (57kg), Sanjeet Kumar (92kg), Amit Panghal (51kg) and Jaismine (women's 57kg) took another step towards Paris Olympic qualification as they registered convincing victories to advance in the Boxing World Qualifiers here on Thursday.

Sachin started the proceedings for India with a clinical 5-0 win against Olympian Batuhan Ciftci of Turkey in the pre-quarterfinals and Sanjeet then saw off the challenge from Luis Sanchez of Venezuela with an identical margin in the round of 32.

Two more wins needed

In the 57kg category, only three boxers will make the cut for the Paris Games. Sachin, therefore, needs to win two more bouts to make the cut .

Sanjeet, who got a bye in the round of 64, will have a similar target as all four semifinalists will qualify in his weight category.

Later in the day, Jaismine did not give Azerbaijan's Mahsati Hamzayeva any chance of putting up a fight as she clinched the 57kg category round of 32 bout with a 5-0 verdict.

Perfect day

The 2022 Commonwealth Games gold medallist Amit then completed a perfect day for the Indian contingent by getting the better of Mexico's Mauricio Ruiz 4-1.

The National champion was under pressure in the first round but he picked up pace in the last minute of that round and then turned the match around with a couple of combination punches in the final round to clinch the win.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Kishan and Hitasha take the honours

R. Kishan and Hitasha Sisodiya clinched the men's and women's titles respectively at the Karnataka State-ranking tenpin bowling league.

R. Kishan (438) beat Girish Gaba (404) and Parvez Ahmed (384) on the basis of cumulative pinfall of two games to win the top prize. Hitasha (314) defeated J. Preemal (303) and P. Geetha (302) to win her maiden crown.

Tanshh and Shaurya power Bangalore Sports Club to big win

Centuries from M. Tanshh Krishna (101) and N.S. Shaurya (133) powered Bangalore Sports Club to a huge 292-run win over Whirlwind Cricketers in a KSCA (Group I) U-16 inter-club tournament.

The scores:

Kishan and Hitasha.

Bangalore SC 400/7 in 50 overs (Bilal Muhammad Basheer 27, M. Tanshh Krishna 101, N.S. Shaurya 133, G.K. Saivarun 32, Arush Jain 32, Merrick Hubert 3/92) bt Whirlwind Cricketers 108 in 38.4 overs (Pratham Shankar 31, Ekansh Roul 3/5).

Vultures 342/5 in 50 overs (Raj Aryan 60, S.P. Banesh 120, Harshvardhan Nishikanth 51, Vedaraj Yadav 45, Krushna Rao 45 n.o.) bt South End SC 104 in 24 overs (Prince Ratan 49, Dheeganth Mavinkere 3/13, Krushna Rao 3/21).

Bangalore Occasionals 207/8 in 50 overs (C. Barath 52, Krishna Pahuja 28, Supraket Das 32, Amegh Verma 3/50) lost to Social Cricketers 209/4 in 38.3 overs (Chavanth Gowda 36, Vidhan Loyalka 39, Manan Goel 53, Rafa Poonacha Ballachanda 42).

Jupiter CA 108 in 33.3 overs lost to Herons 111/3 in 21.4 overs (Gagan Karnati 56 n.o., Murugesh Baskar 29 n.o., Tanish Singhal 3/30).

Dooravani Cricketers (1) 169/9 in 50 overs (M. Shivu 33, Niraj Kumar Chintha 26, G. Srujan 38 n.o., Sandeep Agri 3/15) lost to Coles 113/1 in 17.5 overs (R. Rathin Sanjay 30 n.o., Vismay Raj 70).(overs reduced due to rains).

Bangalore Indian 83 in 20.1 overs (S. Leshan 5/19) lost to Palar SC 84/5 in 14.4 overs.

Wadiyar 123 in 33.1 overs (Sri Nidhish Chollangi 28, B.R. Rathan 3/17) lost to Young Lions Club 113/0 in 13.1 overs (Karan Raghavendra 50 n.o., Arjun Aravind Potti 56 n.o.).

Sangam CA 162 in 50 overs (Syed Amin 28, Anshuman Samal 32, Naman Gujar 32) lost to Vijaya 166/1 in 25.1 overs (Pranav Kedlaya 60 n.o., Dhruv Krishnan 46, Anvay Dravid 49 n.o.).

Citizen Cultural CA 92 in 30.1 overs (Bhavya Sareen 50, Advaith Kamesh 3/8, Badrinath 3/17) lost to Swastic Union (1) 92/2 in 14.5 overs.

Treesa-Gayatri duo stuns Baek-Lee; Sindhu goes down to Marin

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P.V. Sindhu suffered yet another setback against Carolina Marin, but the Indian women's doubles pair of Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand stunned World No. 2 Baek Ha Na and Lee So Hee of South Korea to enter the quarterfinals at Singapore Open on Thursday.

In the men's singles, H.S. Prannoy lost to Kenta Nishimoto of Japan.

Sindhu blew away a 18-15 lead in the decider to go down to her familiar rival 21-13, 11-21, 20-22 in a last-16 match. It was Sindhu's sixth loss on the trot against her arch-rival dating back to 2018.

Big scalp: Gayatri and Treesa prevailed over Baek and Lee in three games to make the last eight. X@BAI_MEDIA

But Treesa and Gayatri kept the Indian flag flying by eliminating Baek and Lee 21-9, 14-21, 21-15 in close to one-hour battle.

This was the World No. 30 duo's maiden win from three meetings against the Korean pair.

In men's singles, World No. 10 Prannoy, seeded eighth, lost to Nishimoto, ranked 11th, 13-21, 21-14, 15-21 in a 45-minute match.

The results
(pre-quarterfinals): Men: Kenta Nishimoto (Jpn) bt H.S. Prannoy 21-13, 14-21, 21-15.
Women: Carolina Mari (Esp) bt P.V. Sindhu 13-21, 21-11, 22-20.
Doubles: Treesa Jolly & Gayatri Gopichand bt Baek Ha Na & Lee So Hee (Kor) 21-9, 14-21, 21-15.